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Twenty-Six Political and other Poems

FROM THE OXFORD MSS.

DIGBY 102 AND DOUCE 322.

PART I.

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Political and othen Poems

(Encluding 'Petty Job')

FROM THE OXFORD MSS.

DIGBY 102 AND DOUCE 322.

EDITED,

WITH INTRODUCTION AND GLOSSARIAL INDEX,
By DR. J. KAIL.

PART I.

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CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION: 1. THE 24 POEMS OF THE DIGBY MS. 102, A.D. 1400-21	vii
	*11
2. THE 2 POEMS OF THE DOUCE MS. 322, PETTY JOB AND	
Parce mihi, Domine	xxii
TWENTY-FOUR POEMS FROM DIGBY MS. 102.	
I. LOUE GOD, AND DREDE: in or after January 1400	1
II. MEDE & MUCHE THANK. A.D. 1400	6
III. TREUTH, RESTE, AND PES. Early in A.D. 1401	9
IV. LERNE SAY WELE, SAY LITEL, OR SAY NORT. Probably	
A.D. 1400	14
v. Wyt & Wille. A.D. 1404-8?	22
VI. TO LYUE BODYLY, IS PERYLOUS. A.D. 1404-8?	25
VII. MAN, KNOW THY SELF, AND LERNE TO DYE. An Easter	
Poem, A.D. 1404-8?	27
VIII. A GOOD MAKYNGE OF IOUR DELAYE. Against the Clergy.	
A.D. 1408-9	31
IX. WITH GOD OF LOUE & PES, 3E TRETE. A.D. 1410	34
X. A GOOD STERYNG TO HEUENWARD. A.D. 1411	40
XI. GOD & MAN BEN MADE ATTE ON. Easter 1412	46
XII. GOD SAUE THE KYNG, AND KEPE THE CROUNE! On	
Henry V. Easter 1413	50
XIII. DEDE IS WORCHYNG. A.D. 1414. (Part I, ll. 1-104;	
Part II, l. 105–168)	55
XIV. MAN, BE WARRE ER THE BE WOO. Early in 1418	60
XV. THE DESCRYUYNG OF MANNES MEMBRES	64
XVI. A REMEMBRAUNCE OF LII FOLYES. A.D. 1419. On John,	-
Duke of Flanders	69

Contents.

					PAGE
XVII.	LOUE THAT GOD LOUETH	•••	• • •	• • •	73
xviii.	THE DECLARYNG OF RELIGIOUN. A.D.	1421			79
XIX.	God's Appeal to Man	•••			85
XX.	How Man's flesh complained to Go	D AGAI	вт Сн	RIST	89
XXI.	A LERNYNG TO GOOD LEUYNGE	•••	•••	•••	96
XXII.	KNOWE THY SELF & THY GOD	•••			101
xxIII.	Of the Sacrament of the Altere				103
XXIV.	The Lessouns of the Dirige		•••		107
	Two Poems from Douce M	IS. 322			
xxv.	PETTY JOB, OR PARCE MIHI, DOMINE				120
xxvi.	A TRETYSE OF PARCE MICHI, DOMINI	£			143
Grass	ARIAL TNDEX				153

211

INTRODUCTION.

The first twenty-four poems of the present volume are preserved in the Digby MS. 102, of the Bodleian. This MS., a parchment codex of the 15th century, contains: 1. W. Langland's Vision concerning Piers the Ploughman and concerning Dowel, Dobet, and Dobest, leaves 1-97, imperfect at the beginning, commencing in the middle of passus III. The text agrees with the C-text printed by the Rev. W. Skeat. 2. The present poems, composed in the first quarter of the 15th century, leaves 98-127. 3. A metrical paraphrase of the seven Penitential Psalms by Richard of Maydestone, leaves 4. The debate of the Body and the Soul, leaves 136-139. The present pieces are written across the page like prose, the divisions of the lines being only marked by little strokes. The titles in red were added at a later time, but probably by the same copyist; the same is the case with the paragraph-marks, alternately red and blue, at the beginning of every stanza, and with the Latin marginal notes which occur on some pages. Leaf 119 was turned over together with leaf 120, and so the titles and the coloured paragraph-marks are missing in the 19th and 20th poems, which stand on leaf 119, back, and on leaf 120.

All twenty-four poems are most probably by the same author. Almost all of them have one and the same religious character. They warn against worldly folly, and praise virtue, always setting a great value on the works of a man, but none on his words. They frequently recommend righteousness for practical reasons. During the turbulent reign of Henry IV., and in the beginning of the French war under Henry V., the poems promise the virtuous, besides the bliss of heaven, success in worldly affairs, riches, power, and good advice. In time of war, the pious may rely on God, for He fights for them, He gives them courage and victory, and beats their enemies with illness, fear, and woe. (II 75; III 76, 85, 95, 109 et sqq.; IX 141 et sqq.; X 180 et sqq.; XI 53 et sqq., 81 et sqq., 91 et sqq.; XVII 127.) The wicked are threatened with cowardice,

viii The Poems are democratic, and denounce all Wrong-doing.

dread, strife, and defeat (II 73 et sqq.; III 75, 77; IV 195 et sqq.; XI 84; XIII 86).

Further, the pieces show one and the same democratic tendency. They declare the Commons to be the most important of all estates: the Commons make a kingdom (III 99 et sag.), they support the honour of the lords and of the church, they are the ornament of the king's crown (XII 141 et sqq.); to stand with them, is the highest charity, which God alone can reward (XIII 33 et sqq.). The poems strive also to protect the lower ranks against the encroachments of the lords and officers, especially against the injustice of the judges. The laws had already been very badly executed in the last years of Edward III .: under Richard II, they lost the rest of their power; and it was long before Henry IV, succeeded in restoring them to their former authority. In his reign, too, the judges, instead of binding themselves to the old laws and statutes, took bribes, and were led by favour and self-interest; and the nobility often used oppression against the inferior classes, and took their property with wrong. The present pieces call upon the judges to be just, and not to sell their judgments for money (I 153 et sqq.; III 12; IX 57 et sqq.; XVIII 180). Officers are warned that the people belong to God, and that He has ordered them to govern it after right and reason, and without selfishness (I 17 et sqq.; III 129 et sqq.; XIII 51 et sq.). The nobility are reminded that they will have to account for everything they possess, and for the means by which they got it; therefore, they are exhorted to let everybody have his due, and to restore to the poor the goods of which they have robbed them surreptitiously (I 25 et sqq., 33, 117; VII 81 et sqq.; VIII 3 et sqq.; X 197 et sqq.; XI 42; XIV 59, 66; XVII 83 et sqq.; XIX 37, 58 et sqq.; 149 et sq.).

The poems aim also at such persons as injure the people indirectly by defacing truth, by flattering the king and the lords, and by misleading them, by their counsel, to bad actions. They contain many a line in defence of truth, and to the suppression of falsehood. They like to represent Truth and Falsehood as persons always persecuting and fighting each other (IV 12, 113; XII 67 et sq. 73; XIII 30, 100, 103 et sq.). Truth never retires cowardly (III 5; IV 157; XII 74), for God sends His champion Vengeance to his help (IV 115, 117 et sqq.; XII 77 et sqq.; XIII 85 et sqq.). Truth cannot be entirely subdued; he always appears again, and speaks before the whole people (IV 97-104; XII 76; XIII 59). Many of these pieces caution against those who, practising sycophancy, sow discord between the

sovereign and the people. Men of the highest ranks should not listen to the wicked counsels of such vicious folk, which may destroy a whole kingdom, but rather follow the wholesome advice of true men (I 60; III 81 et sq.; IV 73 et sqq., 145 et sqq.; V 1 et sqq.; XVI 7 et sq. 51; XXIV 405 et sq.). Nobles ought to support the poor and virtuous, instead of promoting unworthy and needless people (IV 169 et sqq.; V 41 et sqq.; VII 65 et sqq.; XIV 85; XXI 38, 122).

Likewise, the present pieces are not blind to the abuses of the clergy, both parish-priests and monks, but frequently inveigh against them in sharp words. They resent the covetousness of the priests (VIII 25 et sqq.; XIV 25 et sqq. 81), their neglectfulness of duty (VIII 28; IX 161-176; XIII 147-172), and other trespasses (XVIII). But though the poems are not quite free from the ideas of the Reformation, they are by no means by a Lollard, for they never touch the doctrines of the Church; on the contrary, they even defend them, especially such as had been attacked by Wiclif.

Moreover, nearly all the pieces are occasional poems, for which church-ceremonies or festivals, parliamentary transactions, and events of public interest offered the subjects.

Lastly, the style and language show no such difference as would compel us to ascribe the several poems to more than one author.

In some passages the writer addresses the faithful like a clergyman; in others, he speaks like a master of a monastery to his fellow-monks. From this circumstance, as well as from his acquaintance with, and his frequent reference to the Bible, we may infer that the author was a priest, most probably an abbot or a prior. As such he occupied a seat in parliament, and voted with the Commons. This makes us understand his rather detailed knowledge of the proceedings in parliament, and his lively interest in the cause of the Commons. Some of the occurrences he hints at he might know from hearsay; but as he refers to pretty insignificant incidents which took place on the remotest frontiers, and as he sometimes directly mentions parliament, there is no doubt that he was present at its sessions.

By his political persuasion, the author belongs to the south or the south-midland. Whereas in the north, at that time, the influence of the nobility prevails, the south is distinguished by that loyalty to the sovereign, and by that enthusiasm for the rights of the Commons, which are also characteristic of our poet. The few dialectical relics which occur in the poems, render it probable that the writer lived in Х

the western or in the south-western midland. A.S. â generally appears in o; twice it is preserved as a: hame (: shame, name, fame) II 23, sare (: bare, spare) X 39. French u rhymes with y, the i-umlaut of A.S. u, and with i of A.S. or of French origin: dure : hire, sire, fire IX 71; ruyde: byde, chyde hyde XXI 25; refuyse: wyse mysse I 100; nyze: bodylye VI 70; askuse: avyse IV 81; use: despise V 33; refysed, used: devysed, despysed XV 149; use: service, augse, wyse V 42; used, refused: augsed, is it XX 123; use: auyse, despise, wise XXII 66; refuse: syse, unwyse, despise, XXIV 283; destruyd; aspyed, tryed, and XII 68; struyze; dryze, maystry. dedelu XXIV 144. In the present tense, the verbal ending of the 2nd pers. is s in has (: gras, chas, plas) XVII 146, saues (: craues, knaues) XXI 152 wendys (: frendys, fendys, schendys) XXIV 97; st in gost (; ost, cost, most) XXIII 81. The 3rd pers. ends in s: ges, sles (: pes) III 14, 22, etc., twice in th: geb, sleb (: debe, brebe) XXIV 335, 337. As a rule, the plur, has no ending; five times it has n: bene (: wene, inf.) IV 145; gon (: bon, fon, on) XV 37 (: bon, ston, won), XV 51; sayn (: agayn, playn, sayn) XX 1; don (: shon, bone, wone) XX 142; three times s: preues (: theues, myscheues, grenes) I 125; releues (: preues, myscheues, greues) III 103; countes (: amountes) IV 235. The n of the inf. is only preserved in the following monosyllables: tan (: man) VIII 81; sayn (agayn, pleyn) XX 5; gon (: bon mon, non) XXIII 116. The strong p. pa. appears with or without n: tan (man, bygan, ran) XXIV 227 sworn. born, lorn (: morn) VIII 12, 13, 15; go (: mo, so slo) III 119; forlore (: restore, store) XVII 88, etc. The plur. of the pers, pron. of the 3rd p. is he (the, me, fle) XVII 54, and pay (: may, assay, clay) XV 59. Most of the poems are in 8-line stanzas, abab, abab or bebe, Nos. X and XVI are in 14-line stanzas, abab, abab, cc ddd c. Assonances are allowed, and rhymes of singulars and plurals or infinitives, final n and s being disregarded.

The poems contain allusions to parliamentary transactions and to other affairs, by means of which we are able to fix their dates.

In the parliament of the first year of Henry IV., the Commons requested that everywhere the ablest and most esteemed men should be made justices of the peace, as it had been ordered in the time of Edward III. They complained that many judges got their offices by bribes, and instead of making peace, nourished discord, and used oppression (Rolls of Parliament, p. 444, 151). They required the judges to be sworn not to accept presents or gifts of any kind from

anybody, but to content themselves with their fees (R. P., p. 433, 99). Everybody accused of, or imprisoned for, treachery or other offences, should be allowed to apologize, as it was prescribed by the old laws (R. P., p. 442, 144).

The same wrongs as the Commons wished to be redressed are hinted at in the first of the present pieces. The poet warns his hearers against tyranny, secret hate, and self-interest (l. 3). The admonition to make unity where discord prevailed (l. 13), and to make peace between quarrelling parties (l. 161), is no doubt aimed at the justices of the peace, who were accused of stirring hostilities among the people. Moreover, the author inveighs against such judges as take bribes and sell the laws (Il. 68, 156), and he blames those who condemn a man without hearing his apology (l. 153 sq.). L. 81 is, I think, an allusion to the pestilence which haunted the western and the northern parts of the country in 1399. In the same parliament, the Commons asked the king to provide against that evil, which still prevailed in the northern districts (R. P., p. 434). The ll. 73 et squ. seem to refer to a conspiracy against Henry IV. About Christmas 1399, six noblemen formed a plot against the life of the King; but their treacherous project being discovered, the conjurors and their followers were put to death, and their quarters carried about in the streets of London, as an example to rebels.

The parliament in the first year of Henry IV. closed on November 19; but since the plot against the King was not detected before Christmas, and as the execution of the conspirators took place in the beginning of January, the first poem is not to be dated before January 1400.

The second piece belongs to the same year, for the third is fixed to the beginning of 1401 by the allusions which it contains to the parliamentary transactions of that year. On January 25 the Commons declared that, as they were deliberating on certain subjects, it might happen that some of them, in order to please the King and to gain his favour, would make him reports of their negotiations before they had come to a determination, and so they might fall under the displeasure of the sovereign; therefore, they asked him not to trust such tale-bearers (R. P., p. 456). At the same time, they warned Henry of the intrigues of the French, who calumniated some loyal lords, in order to bring them into disfavour with the monarch. They explained what great mischief might befall the whole realm if he listened to those slanderers (ibid.). On another occasion, they related

that some people had been imprisoned without trial, and dispossessed of their estates by chicanery. They requested that from that time forward nobody should be imprisoned without being put to the question, as was ordered in Magna Charta; and that, if anybody happened to be in prison, he should be tried immediately (R. P., p. 470). On February 21 the Commons reported to the sovereign that the inhabitants of Wales had risen in arms; in England too, especially on the frontier of Wales, tumults were excited against customs and Those uproars, they said, had been raised because other officials. the King had appointed some of his followers to be officers of the natives, which was against the old statutes. Therefore, they asked Henry to examine those old laws, and to order remedies for the suppression of that rebellion, which might hurt the prince and the whole kingdom (R. P., p. 457, 15, 16). On January 25 the Commons declared three things to be indispensable for the good administration of every kingdom, namely, sense, humanity, and riches; the King himself, as well as his counsellors, was well endowed with sense, as everybody knew; to the lords spiritual and temporal and to the chivalry God had granted humanity, a firm will, and great courage; as to riches, the monarch possessed the hearts of his subjects, which were the most precious treasure of a sovereign (R. P., p. 456). On March 15 they compared the states of a kingdom to a trinity, formed by the prince, the lords, and the Commons; as they had learned that some lords entertained quarrels against one another, they asked the monarch to reconcile them, to the benefit of the whole nation (R. P., p. 459, 32).

The three things which, as our poet says, may do great harm in a kingdom, remind us of three grievances of which the Commons complained. By the tale-bearers (l. 17 et sqq.) we are to understand those slanderers against whom the Commons warned the King. The reproach of corruptibility (l. 25 et sq.) falls upon such judges as cause guiltless persons to be imprisoned. The mention of frequent changes of governance, at last (l. 41 et sqq.) is an allusion to the appointment of new officers in Wales. The author, like the Commons, advises the settlement of those differences by fair means, and says the King should beware of lawless innovations (ll. 55–64). L. 155 puts one in mind of the request of the Commons to make unity between the quarrelling lords. Likewise, lines 113 et sqq. may be regarded as an allusion to the dissension among the noblemen, and to the frequent rebellions against the King. It was, indeed, the discord among the

English that brought much mischief on their own country. The Welsh profited by the civil commotions to make insurrections; the Scots renewed their incursions into England, and wasted the northern counties (cf. l. 117 et sq.); the French intrigued at the English court, and began to trouble the garrison of Calais: so that, about that time. England was in fact everywhere threatened by enemies (cf. l. 115 et sq.). Lines 137-144 were written in favour of a statute which was made against the Lollards in 1401. Since King Henry IV. regarded the benevolence of the Church as an excellent means to secure his throne. he engaged the parliament to make a law that everybody convicted of heresy was to be delivered over, by the bishop, to the secular court, and to suffer death by fire. In the enumeration of what makes the treasury of a kingdom, the writer is again influenced by the above-quoted declaration of the Commons. We find here again the wise clergy (l. 68), the courageous chivalry (l. 69 sq.), and the advised and valiant king (l. 71 sq.).

The 4th poem, 'Lerne say wele, say litel or say noṣt,' I think originated in 1404. In the Rolls of Parliament of that year we read that on February 7 the Commons asked the King to remove from the court four persons who displeased them (R. P., p. 525, 16). The next day they requested the monarch to choose honourable, virtuous, and well-principled men for his courtiers, and to make such arrangements as would please God, and promote the welfare of his subjects (ibid.). About the same time, they desired the prince to clear his household of the great number of strangers who used to live there; and they wished that good management should prevail, the costs of which might easily be covered (R. P., p. 527, 26).

In several passages of the fourth piece, the poet inveighs against those people who flatter lords and kings, and persuade them to oppress the poor, and to commit other acts of injustice (Il. 73–96, 145–152, 201–208, 219–224). We don't know exactly why the Commons desired those four persons to be dismissed; but it is most probable that they misdoubted them to be flatterers and bad counsellors to the sovereign. The favouritism which had flourished under Richard II. was apparently still fresh in memory, and excited suspicion against the courtiers of Henry IV. Lines 137–144 seem to be aimed at the confessor of the King, who was also among the persons to be expelled from the court, and whom they perhaps suspected of taking bribes or passing over the faults of the prince from cowardice. The author agrees with the Commons in laying

stress on the good influence which virtuous men may have on lords (l. 209 sq.). In the exhortation to show liberality only to worthy people, and not to support the importunate (ll. 169-176), we may see a hint at the sustenance of the numerous strangers at the court of the monarch

The next three pieces may be supposed to fall between 1404 and 1408,

No. VIII aims at the worldly and dissolute life of the clergy. The same subject was discussed in the parliament of the seventh and eighth of Henry IV. In one session, the Commons reported that many curates were not resident in their dioceses, but sojourned elsewhere, spoiling and squandering away the property of the Church, neglecting the divine service, and disregarding their own and their parishioners' eternal welfare; they left their cures, in order that they should not be obliged to support their poor and indigent parishioners, setting an ignominious example to every Christian man (R. P., p. 594, 114). Another time, they complained that vicars wrongly exacted tithes, and prosecuted poor labourers who could not pay (R. P., p. 591, 105).

All those trespasses are resented by our author. He rebukes those clergymen who take tithes, but will not teach the people (l. 20); who resign themselves to worldly pleasures (l. 25), and deprive their own souls and those of others of the heavenly bliss (ll. 39, 47). He thinks it better to help poor people with small means, than wrongly to extort large sums from them, and to neglect the care of the souls (ll. 65-72).

IX. The piece 'With God of loue and pes 3e trete' is to be dated 1410, because it contains allusions to the parliament of that year. On March 15 the Commons asked the King to adjourn the sessions till after Easter, since it was desirable that every Christian man should spend that holy time at home, attending the divine service, and doing penance for his sins. In the same parliament, they complained of several cheats which were committed in certain parts of the country. They reported that "Gali-halfpens" were circulating, a bad coin, which they wished to be declared forfeit because it only served to derogate from the King's crown, and to practise gross deceptions on the common people (R. P., p. 644, 68). Further, they reminded the monarch of a law passed in the seventh of Henry IV., according to which the cloth that was made in the western districts of England was to have a certain length and width. There were,

however, people who made it much smaller, and who, to conceal the deceit, folded it so skilfully, that it seemed to have the due size, and that the controlling officers put the seal to the bales without unpacking them (R. P., p. 644, 69). Moreover, the Commons requested that no officer or judge or minister of the King should be allowed to accept presents or bribes from anybody. If any persons happened to be in prison without having been tried, they should be permitted to apologize (R. P., p. 626, 28, 29). An oath should be administered to the judges, openly to do full justice to everybody, without delay, and without regard to contrary orders or charges of anybody (R. P., p. 623, 14). The common laws, statutes, and good institutions made in former times and not repealed, should be kept, and executed according to right and reason, by the judges, officers, and ministers. without encroachments or impediments of any kind (R. P., p. 624. 18). The Commons also repeated their former complaint of the non-residence and other abuses of the clergy. They said that many ministers of the Church, who ought to be resident and to keep hospitality in their dioceses, aiding and supporting all their poor parishioners, were in offices at the court of the King, and in the houses of certain lords; others lived in London, Oxford, Canterbury, or in abbeys and priories, spending little or nothing for good purposes, never caring about their cures nor paying the least attention to their clerical duties (R. P., p. 645, 70). At last, they asked the sovereign to procure remedies against the frequent rebellions and troubles in the kingdom (R. P., p. 624, 17).

The connection of the ninth poem with the above-quoted parliamentary transactions is evident. The piece must have been composed about Easter 1410. From the exhortation to do penance (l. 9), it follows that the holy time mentioned in the first line is Easter, the time of shrift and penance. The author opposes to the parliamentary affairs the negotiations of peace with God, and invites the faithful to clear themselves of their sins. He teaches them himself how to prepare for the sacrament, and how to behave after they have received it. At the same time, he cannot help resenting several disorders identical with, or similar to, those which were talked of in parliament. He reproves people who debase and adulterate the current coin (l. 49), and those who measure with a false ell (l. 52); he warns judges of passing unjust sentences, either for meed or from fear of lords, and he calls on them to let law have its course (ll. 57-72); at last, he charges the clergy with the same

abuses of which the Commons accused them: non-residence, short-comings, and regardlessness of the poor (ll. 153-176). The admonition of the soldiers to beware of covetousness and cruelty (l. 140) in quenching rebellions, may have been occasioned by the petition of the Commons to remedy the frequent tunults in the kingdom. The soldiers seem to have used violent measures in suppressing uproars. In the same parliament, the Commons even complained of the severity and oppression which the King's officers, when gathering contributions, used against peaceful subjects (R. P., p. 624, 16); still less indulgence and more covetousness was of course to be expected of soldiers fighting rebels.

The next two poems X, XI must have been written, respectively, in 1411 and at Easter 1412.

With No. XII we enter the reign of King Henry V. Henry IV. died on March 20, 1413, and his son was crowned three weeks afterwards, a fortnight before Easter. By the holy time of bliss and joy (l. 4) we are then to understand Easter 1413, for this piece seems to have been written under the impression of the coronation ceremonies, and besides, the poet refers to some incidents which took place about that time. Soon after Henry V.'s accession to the throne, a conspiracy was detected, which threatened to endanger the crown recently placed on the head of the young prince. leader of the conjurors was one John Wightlock, an ancient groom and veoman of Richard II., who, with several accomplices, already in the reign of Henry IV., excited tumults in England by spreading rumours that the deposed King Richard was still alive, and would come before long to drive away the usurper. The conspirators entertained a secret correspondence with the King of Scotland, and with the Duke of Albany, who kept in his house one Thomas Ward of Trumpington, a fellow who bore some resemblance to King Richard, and who was, therefore, declared to be the dethroned prince. Wightlock was imprisoned in the Tower and sentenced to death, but he made his escape by the help of a warden. History of the Reign of Henry V. London, 1704, p. 3.)

The conspirators who spread the rumours about Richard II., and who made an attempt on the life of Henry V., are the fools whose wicked plans are to be disconcerted (l. 7). As the poet says (l. 51), no harm had yet been done, the offence having been restricted to those malicious reports, therefore the conspirators were not prosecuted, except Wightlock, whose condemnation may be alluded to in

11. 90-95. Lines 97 et sqq. are most probably aimed at the Duke of Albany, who had harboured the individual bearing a resemblance to Richard II. The enemies who would rush in from all sides in case of civil wars (ll. 33-40) are the Scots,-whose King had taken a lively interest in nourishing a tumult in England,—and the French, against whom at that time a little prelude was made to the great war, which afterwards broke out between the two nations. Soon after the death of Henry IV., several hostilities took place by sea and by land, between the French and the English garrison of Calais This circumstance induces the author to mention and other towns. the English territories beyond the sea, on the possession of which he sets such great value (l. 25).-Lines 113-120 apparently refer to the frequent insurrections under the preceding kings.-The allusion to Flanders (1.85) is founded upon the following historical event. In the reign of Charles VI. of France, Lewis Duke of Orleans, and John Duke of Burgundy and Flanders, the brother and the cousingerman of the King, quarrelled about the leading part in the administration of the kingdom. After long contentions, they resolved at last upon making peace, and swore a solemn oath to keep an eternal friendship. But soon after the faithless Duke of Burgundy caused his rival to be murdered in the streets of Paris (1407). The consequence of that bloody deed was that his enemies desolated his country; and as he openly boasted of his crime, he brought general contempt upon himself.

XIII. In the poem 'Dede is worchyng' two parts are to be discerned, the first of which, ending at l. 104, contains references to several domestic affairs which were talked of in the parliament of Leicester, 1414. The Archbishop of Winchester, the King's uncle and Chancellor of England, choosing for his theme the words "Posuit cor suum ad leges investigandas," declared that three reasons had induced the King to summon the parliament: (1) Because he wished the laws of God and of the Church to be strictly observed. (2) As recently many persons had been robbed, even in violation of their safeconduct, arrangements should be made for a better observation of peace. (3) If it proved necessary, new laws should be enacted to the benefit and profit of the whole nation, especially against rebels, murderers, and other malefactors. - About the assassins mentioned by the Chancellor we learn particulars from the reports of the Commons in the same parliament. They complained of a great many murders, treasons, and robberies, committed by sea and land, and they even POEMS (OXF.).

accused subjects of the King of assisting and sheltering the thieves (R. P., p. 22, 23). Further, they said that lately many people had been waylaid by the inhabitants of the franchises of Tyndale. Riddesdale, and Eschamshire bordering on Scotland, and that some fellows of those regions housed Scots, and incited them to surprise people, to take their money, and to drive away their cattle. Moreover, they reported that the Viscount of Riddesdale, either from want of energy or from want of good-will, refused to apply the laws against those offenders (R. P., p. 21, 19).—Lastly they presented a petition, "that fro this tyme foreward, by compleynte of the commons of env myschief axkynge remedie by mouthe of their Speaker for the Commons other ellys by Petition writen, that ther never be no Lawe made theruppon, and engrosed as Statut and Lawe, nother by addicions nother by diminucions by no manere of terme ne termes, the whiche that sholde chaunge the sentence and the entente axked by the Speker mouthe or the Petition biforesaid yeven up yn writing by the maner forsaid, withoute assent of the aforesaid Commons" (R. P., 22, 22).—The tenants of Darleton and Ragenell related that Lord Stanhope had surrounded all their fields, meadows, and pasture-grounds with armed bands, so that they had no fructure of them (R. P., p. 29).

The first four lines of the thirteenth piece remind us of the speech of the Chancellor, who also declared the principal object of that parliament to be to amend what was amiss. Our poet does not seem to approve of all the intentions of the government. Above all, he does not expect much good of making new laws (ll. 29-32). In one thing, however, he is of the same opinion as the Chancellor, viz. that great arbitrariness in the interpretation of the laws prevails, and that the existing institutions ought to be observed much better. Especially he declaims against robbers and waylayers, whom he requires to be severely punished (ll. 17-24). From the express call to protect people against those who seize their cattle, and injure their own persons (ll. 53-56) we are to conclude that the writer has in view the wrongs done to the inhabitants of Tyndale and Riddesdale. Lines 57-64, particularly the warning against taking meed (1. 62), refer to the Viscount of Riddesdale, who refused to try the guilty.—The passage promising a great blessing of God to those who stand with the "uncunning" Commons, and who don't encroach upon their rights, seems to include a reproof of the "cunning" lords who used to cheat the Commons by changing the text of their

Poem XIII. Foreign Affairs in 1414. War to come with France. xix

petitions. By the complaints of the tenants (l. 43), the author evidently means the grievances of the tenants of Darleton and Ragenell.

The second part of this poem, beginning at line 105, treats of the foreign affairs of England. In the Parliament of Leicester, the Archbishop of Canterbury had already declared that the King ought to wear the crown of France by a title descending to him from Edward III., who had openly challenged his right by ambassadors, and bravely attempted to conquer by arms what he could not obtain by treaties; he asserted that Henry had the same title to that crown, and the same reasons to make war upon a refusal (Goodwin, p. 43). Moved by that speech of the Archbishop, Henry determined upon profiting by the disorders which prevailed in France during the reign of King Charles VI., in order to renew the claims of his predecessors to the throne of that country. At first, he entered into negotiations with the French court: but he made such conditions of peace as could not be supposed to gain acceptance. Therefore, he began at the same time to make preparations for war. The English ambassadors went over to Paris on Aug. 8, 1414; but they soon returned without having effected their object. In November 1414, the matter was proposed to the parliament which had been prorogued from Leicester to Westminster. The Chancellor, taking for his theme the words "Dum tempus habemus, operemur," protested that the King's endeavours not only aimed at a just and wise government in his own realm, but that he also intended to recover the lawful heritage of the English crown, which for a long time had been withheld from his predecessors; and that, considering the peace prevailing in the kingdom, he thought it his duty to carry through his purpose immediately. But to succeed in so great an enterprise, the Chancellor pretended three things to be indispensable for the King, namely, the loyal advice of his counsellors, true assistance of the gentry, and copious supplies from all his subjects.

Our poet warmly seconds the designs of the King. Several times he closely follows the declaration of the Chancellor. He derives the title of King Henry to the French throne from the conquests of Edward III., as the Archbishop had done in the parliament of Leicester (ll. 113 et sqq.). Since the treaties with the French court proved useless, he, like the Chancellor, advises that the affair shall be settled by the sword. In lines 104 and 105 he refers to the words of the Archbishop, that the peace prevailing at home induced the

King to pursue his purpose in France. To render the undertaking successful, he recommends the same things as the Chancellor had done (ll. 121 et sqq., 129-132).

Perhaps even the burden "dede" was suggested by the word "operemur" in the theme of the Archbishop.

XIV. The next piece was composed, to my thinking, in the beginning of 1418. It seems to contain some vague allusions to the fate of Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham. This lord, who had enjoyed the full favour and confidence of Henry IV., and who was esteemed as a valiant warrior by Henry V., was, for some time, the head of the Lollards. Therefore, the Archbishop of Canterbury persuaded the King to give his permission to indict Sir John. The monarch endeavoured to make Cobham withdraw his erroneous opinions, but the nobleman, who felt too secure in the favour of the sovereign, offered an obstinate resistance. At last Henry allowed him to be cited before a council in London, by which he was condemned to be burnt. But Cobham made his escape, and then two attempts upon the life of the prince. Being outlawed, he succeeded in hiding himself for three years in the western parts of the country. In 1417 he was taken and delivered over to the court of justice. King Henry being then occupied in France, the Commons required his brother, who meanwhile managed affairs in England, to order the execution of Cobham (Dec. 14). duke complied, and accordingly Sir John was hanged some days afterwards.

Some advices of the 14th poem seem to involve a censure of the folly of a nobleman, who must have been a confidant and counsellor of the King (cf. ll. 9-12). He must have lost the favour of the prince by the tricks of his enemies (l. 10). From line 14 we may conclude that he underrated the intrigues of his adversaries, and that he trusted too much to the protection and to the benevolence of the sovereign. If the last stanza but one may be thought to refer to the attempt on the King's life, we have several circumstances which apply to Sir John Oldcastle. Even the kind of his death may be hinted at in line 45 et sq.

Besides, the reference to Church affairs (ll. 81–88) gives us another hold for fixing the date of this piece. Simony and nepotism must have luxuriated about 1418, for the University of Oxford then made a petition to the King, in which they asked, "that simony should be punished effectually; that care should be taken to prevent unworthy

persons from intruding into the episcopal or sacerdotal office; that the bishops should not appoint wicked men to be ministers to the people; that they should not hold any benefices in commendam; that they should not advance young men, their nephews and otherwise related, to have the care of souls" (Goodwin, p. 230). The same abuses are criticised by our poet: Sinnony (Il. 81, 92), nepotism (I. 85), and bad administration of dioceses (I. 25 et sqq.).

On usury, and on false measure and weight, the Commons complained somewhat later; but we may well imagine that the poet mentions those evils when they first began to appear, and before remedies were required. Besides, after 1414 he alludes no more to parliamentary transactions; the good government of Henry V. evidently gave him less occasion for censure. Now and then he hints to an event of public interest, but in general, the cure of souls stands in the foreground.

XVI. The 'Remembraunce of LII folyes' must have originated in 1419, because it contains references to the folly and to the assassination of John, Duke of Burgundy and Flanders, While Henry V. was successfully advancing in France, the Dauphin and the Duke of Flanders made war upon each other. At last John, moved by the representations of some friends, agreed to an interview with the Dauphin in order to form an alliance against the King of England. On that occasion, the duke was assassinated by the followers of the Dauphin (1419).—The Duke of Flanders was indeed guilty of some of the follies which, as our poet pretends, caused his fall (l. 62). He did not scruple at killing the Duke of Orleans (l. 37, cf. XII. l. 85); he even defended that deed, and openly boasted of it, and nobody durst call it a crime; even the clergy, overawed by his authority, did not venture to proceed against him (ll. 2, 65). He strove for the greatest power in France (l. 3); and instead of assisting his cousin against the King of England, he made war upon him, and so promoted the cause of a stranger (1, 33 et sq.). When he had made the French his enemies, he did not mind their arms (l. 46); he trusted the Dauphin (l. 17), and entered into negotiations with him, though some of his counsellors warned him against his falsehood (l. 19). By the glozers (l. 51) the writer means those persons who advised the prince to ally himself with the Dauphin. John of Burgundy lost not only his lordship (l. 62), but also his life; which was regarded as a punishment for the assassination of the Duke of Orleans (l. 63 et squ.).

No. XVIII. Among the rest of the poems, there is only one the date of which can be fixed with some certainty, namely, 'The declarying of religion.' From Goodwin (p. 303) we learn that in 1421 complaints were made to King Henry V. that the Benedictine monks had deviated from the rules of their first institution, and that, to reform those monks, the next year a Provincial Capitulary was made, where among other things the following articles were passed: The extravagance of the monks' equipage should be moderated, and none have the attendance of above twenty horse. under a great temporal penalty. All the monks should be uniform in the colour and fashion of their habits. Their necessities should be supplied, not in money, which none of the order ought to possess. but in provisions of things needful. No monks should have a distinct private cell to entertain any other women than their own mothers or sisters, and they should not bring even them into any other place than the room appointed for the entertainment of guests. Since the way to preserve chastity was to avoid the conversation of women, none of the monks should be at liberty to go into the cities and towns to compotations or on visits.

Some passages of the 18th poem betray the writer's acquaintance with the above decrees. Monks are warned against entertaining too intimate an intercourse with women (l. 84 et sqq.); they are to beware of drunkenness (l. 103); they are not to pick up news (l. 107); their habit is not to follow the fashion (l. 155), but the rule of order (l. 144); no monk is allowed to buy or sell anything for money (l. 138 et sqq.), nor to possess jewels or horses (l. 155).

Goodwin says that many other articles were passed, "which it would be too tedious to record." If we knew all of them, we could, perhaps, find more allusions in the present piece. Besides, it is not impossible that the author mentions certain abuses which prevailed in his own monastery, and which he thought it necessary to reform.

The poetical treatise on the sacrament of the altar was apparently intended to be an Easter poem; its exact date, however, cannot be made out.

The Petty Job, contained in the Douce MS. 322 of the Bodleian, is, like the Lessons of the Dirige, a paraphrase of the Lamentations of Job. At the head we find the remark that the Petty Job was composed by Richard of Hampole, which of course cannot mean

The Douce MS. Poems, 'Petty Job' and 'Parce michi, Domine.' xxiii

that our poem is by that monk, for it belongs neither to his time nor to his dialect. A.S. â is partly preserved, partly it has become o: mare (: are, care) 338, sare (: care, spare, fare, ware) 569, (: are, whare, fare) 472; cloth, goth, loth, wroth (: doth) 227, one (: bone, troone) 566. The verbal ending of the 3rd p. sing. is s: affrayes (:dayes, wayes) 564, and th: doth (: cloth, loth) 284. The plur. shows the same endings: payes (: dayes, wayes) 653, goth (: cloth, wroth) 279; once it has n: han (: man, can, tan) 111; the plur. of to be is are (: spare, bare) 3, (: mare, care) 340, and be (: we, se, the) 108, (: domine) 225. The inf. and the strong p. pa. appear without n, except gone (inf., : ston, John) 315, and layne (p. pa., : fayne, mayne) 28 tan (p. pa., man, can, han) 115.

Miss A. F. Parker has read the proofs with the MSS. Dr. Furnivall has added the head-lines, and a few side-notes, stops and hyphens, and has seen the sheets through the press for me.



I. Loue god, and drede. [A.D. 1400] [Diaby 102, leaf 98.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab bebc.]

(1)

E che man be war, that bereth a state, Of counseil of double entendement, Of tyrauntrye, and preuey hate, And synguler profit by fals assent, And gong to gyue Iugement. In Euenhede, Lawe 3e lede. Worche be good auisement. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Every man who holds an office, should beware of bad counsel, oppression and injustice.

¶ Drede god, and knowe thy selue, That ouer puple hast gouernaunce. Noght for the love of ten or twelve, Brynge not a Comone in greuaunce. Make vnyte ther was distaunce. Weve o lawe in euenhede. Bytwen ffauour and vengeaunce. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Don't barm a commoner 12 to please a few people. Compose quarrels.

Keep from favour and 16 vengeance.

(3)¶ Eche mannys gouernours Of hous or lordshipe or cite, The puple is godes, and not goures, Thow they be soget to zoure degre. Gouerne the puple in vnyte, In the comaundements that god bede, And 3e wole lyne in charite. Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede, POEMS (OXF.).

The people is God's, not 20 yours;

govern it according to his commandments.

	(4)	
Every man	¶ Eche man wot, that hath wyt,	
knows that God will call him to ac- count for	These worldes goodes beth not his.	
	Alle is godes; he oweth hit,	
	And land and see, and pyne and blis.	28
	God wole haue rekenyng, ywys,	
he least hing he	Of men and cloth, the leste shrede,	
possessed;	Thy getyng, thy holding, thy spendyng mys.	
	Man, knowe thy self, lone god, and drede.	32
	(5)	
	¶ Man of his owen hath no thyng;	
	Man is goddis, and al god sent.	
	God wole haue rekenyng	
	Of ryht and wrong, how it is went.	36
or every- hing has	Man, not nys thyn, alle god lent,	
ent to man	And borwed thyng mot home ful nede;	
oy God, and will be	And 3ut thy soule is goddis rent:	
eclaimed.	Quyte that wele in loue and drede.	40
	(6)	
	¶ Serue god for helle drede,	
Furn away your heart	ffle fro synne and al vys.	
rom worldly oleasures,	And 3e love god for heven mede,	
and give it	3yue hym thyn hert fro fleschly delys.	44
.0 0004	ffor worldly wys is gostly nys,	
	And fooles erande may not spede.	
	In begynnyng to be wys	
	Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	48
	(7)	
	¶ And 3e wole wyte, thus move 3e lere:	
Who likes to	What man pursueth his soule to saue,	
near of God,	3if hym be lef of god to here,	
enables him-	He ableth hym self mercy to haue.	52
elf to get mercy.	Richesse ¹ and hele maketh wylde men raue,	
[1 leaf 98 b]	That to vertues take non hede.	
	Er thy soule be fendes knaue,	

Knowe thy self, love god, and drede.

(8)

That man that wole be gouerned by wyt,

ffle fro foly, and worldis delys; Loke his charge how it is knyt. Fiee from worldly folly,

And take council that is we

And take counseil that is wys; ffolwe mesure in euene syse;

follow good

60

Lete no falshed blome ne sede.

And lawe be kept, no folk nyl ryse.

64 lf the laws be kept, people will not rebel.

Than seruest god in loue and drede.

(9)

¶ Whanne a fool stereth a barge, Hym self and al the folke is shent.

Fools ruin themselves and others.

There as conscience is large,

By wrath or mede the doom is went.

68

The bowe of goddis wrath is bent

On hem that deth not that god bede.

War wordes of dowble entendement.

Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. 72

(10)

¶ Gif a kyngdom falle a chaunce

That al the rewme myght greue, Agen that make an ordinaunce,

Order remedies against mischiefs,

To kepe 30w euere fro suche myscheue; And chastise hem that matere meue:

and punishments for rebels.

Make othere take ensaumple treuth to hede.

Who so is wys, his werkys preue.

Loue god, and 3e thar not drede. 80

(11)

¶ Goddis bowe of wratthe on vs was bent;

God's bow was bent on us;

There we thenke al to lyte. His zerde of loue on summe is lent,

With swerd of vengeaunce he summe doth smyte. 84 severely,

some he punishes severely, others indulgently.

The brydeH with teeth thay byte

That of god taken non hede.

Or fendys alle 3 oure werkys wryte,

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

	(12)	
Poor people	¶ Why pore men don riche reuerence,	
evere yrants out of	Two skylles y fynde therfore:	
ear,	To tyrauntes don hem greuaunce,	
	To rewe and agen restore.	92
enevolent	Goode men for love they worshipe more,	
nen from ove.	That don hem good, and help at nede;	
	ffor god seeth thurgh euery bore.	
	Man, knowe thy self, lone god, and drede.	96
	(13)	
	¶ Eche man wot, that bereth estate,	
	Why they hit resceyue, and to what wyse.	
Worship	Worship for drede is preue hate;	
from dread is secret hatred.	Suche worship of frendes men schold refuyse.	100
	In lone and drede worshipe the wyse.	
[1 leaf 99]	Be suget to resoun in lengthe 1 and brede,	
	ffor god seeth thurgh eche mysse.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	104
	(14)	
Who sins,	¶ As long as man doth wrong,	
makes God his enemy;	He maketh god his ful foo;	
by persever- ing in sin he	The more he dwelleth theryn long,	
increases his guilt.	To his soule he encreseth woo.	108
Stop before	Er he fele het, y rede say hoo,	
you go to Hell.	Er his soule glowe as glede.	
	Haue heuene, or helle: chese of two.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	112
	(15)	
	¶ The man withoute charitee	
	May neuere wynne heuen blisse.	
Do as you	As thou wolde men dede for the,	
would be done by.	Do thou so liche eche man haue hisse;	116
You will have		
to answer for everything	Mot be rekened, a drope 3e shede.	
ill-gotten.	Thes worldis good and thou mon kysse.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	120

(16)

¶ ffalse men bye helle ful dere.

That taken with wrong, are goddis theues;

They han here heuene in this world here;

After in helle, huge myschenes.

What they byleue, here werkys preues Arn heretikes, and out of the Crede.

Why god doth loue, why god doth greues,

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(17)

¶ Man, synne not in ouerhope;

Thou wynnest not goddis mercie with fight;

Hit wolde brynge the in wanhope,

To wene no mercy thou haven myght.

Alle thyng is nombred in goddis sight.

The leste tryp that enere 3e trede.

His mercy is medled with his right.

Man, knowe thy self, lone god, and drede.

(18)

¶ Mannes conscience wil hym telle, Riche and pore, fool and wyse,

Whether he be worthi heuene or helle

To resceyue, after his seruyce.

Eche man auyse hym, that is wys, Pore, and prynce styf on stede.

Or vyces ouer vertues rys.

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(19)

¶ Who that takep fro pore to eke with his, ffor that wrong is worthy wo;

A-nother, richer than he is,

Of the same shal serue hym so.

That seueth to that lise or go,

Mete or drynke, herborwe or wede,

God sendes y-now to tho

That louen god, and hym wolen drede.

Who takes wrongfully,

124 will suffer

124 will suffer pains in Hell.

128

Don't trust too much nor

the mercy of God.

132

136

Your conscience will tell you whether you are to be saved, or

you whether you are to be saved, or condemned,

> Ill-gotten goods don't prosper,

148

152

144

Benefits done to poor men will be rewarded.

(20)

Judges should hear both parties, ¶ He is a fool, that doth answere
To a man er tale be told:

But after the dede deme there;

and take no bribes. [leaf 99 b] Lete not lawe be fanoured ne sold.

Suche maken fals men be bold,

And false men myghte stroye a thede. Er charitee in hert wexe cold.

Er charitee in hert wexe cold,

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(21)

Men should reconcile their quarrelling neighbours. ¶ 3if a man do a-nother mys, Neighbores shuld hem auyse,

The trespasour amende and kys,

Do bothe parties euene assise.

Inveterate hatred often does great mischief. Old horded hate maketh wratthe to rise,
And ofte gilteles blod to blede.

ffle fro fooles, and folwe wise.

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. 168

II. Mede and muche thunk. [Digby 102, leaf 99, back.]

[11 stanzas of 8, abab bebc.]

(1)

(2)

In a forest,

In ryche array, with ryches rank, ffaire floures vnder foote,

I heard two

Sauour to myn herte sank.

I sawe two buvrnes on a bank.

disputing about meed and thanks. To here talkyng I tok hede.

That on preysede moche thank,

That other held al with mede.

One of them was poorly clad, ¶ That on, a trauaylyng man had ben, He was but in mene array; That other clothed in gawdy gren,

the other richly.

That other clothed in gawdy gren, Blasande brizt, embrowdid gay.

12

4

8

156

160

11. Meca and much Inanks.		4
"Loo, felow, chese y may To ryde on palfray or on stede. Shewe forth moche thonk, y the pray; Loo, here y shewe sumwhat of mede."	16	"Show forth thanks, I'll show meed."
(3)		
¶ 'Syre, y see thou hast richesse; How thou hit get, whiche is thy fame, In corage and prowesse,		"Men will honour or blame you according as you have got your riches
After thy dede resceyue thy name,	20	
Other in worshipe, or in shame.		by valour or by cowardice.
Men wol the deme after thy dede,		
Thy fer trauayle, or cochour at hame. How serued thou to have that mede?	24	How do you get meed?'
now served thou to have that mede !	24	
(4)		
¶"I plese my lord at bed and bord, boug y do but strype a stre,		"I please my lord at home, though with trifles only."
And florische fayre my lordis word,		
And fede hem forth with nay and 3ec. Whan trauaylyng men fare eucle on see, In fight, in preson, in storme and drede,	28	
With moche thank than mery 3e be, And y wole make me mery with mede."	32	
(5)		
. ,		4.50
¶ 'fflateryng is the fendis scoles. 3 oure awen werkys preueth 3 ow nys. 3 e skorne lordes, and make hem 3 oure foles,		By your flattery, you make your lords your fools.
To playe and lawhe at 3 oure delys.	36	
Do for a lord; and he be wys,		Wise men reward faith-
Trewe trauayle shal not lese his dede.		ful servants.'
To vertuous lord al worship lys.		
The trewe seruant is worthy hys mede.'	40	
(6)		
¶ "Say, felowe, what doth the greue		
My glosyng, flateryng, play, and daunce?		
Shulde my souerayn aske the leue,		
Whom hym list to auaunce?	44	

II. Meed and much Thanks.

"You get your living with spear and lance, I'll get mine by flattery. [1 leaf 100]	Thou getest the thonke with spere and launce, Ther-with 1thou might the clothe and fede; I gloser wil stonde to my chaunce, And mayntene my men al with mede.	48
	(7)	
By my flat- tering 1 get riches, while war- riors suffer distress.	¶ "My flateryng, glosyng, not me harmes. I gete loue, and moche richesse, When wel-faryng men of armes In fight, in presoun, and distresse.	52
In your old age you may live on thanks,	When thou art old and feble, y gesse, Who wole the fynde fode or wede? Lete moche thonk than thy mete dresse,	02
I'll make merry with meed."	And y wole make me mery with mede."	56
	(8)	
'A glozer is like a weather-cock.	¶'I likne a gloser, in eche weder To folwe the wynd, as doth the fane. 3e begeten hony togedere;	
He and the lean faitour waste, like drones, what others have gathered.	To stroy;e that cometh the drane. Me thenkep pere wit is wane To stroi;e the hony, and foule hit shede; Gloser hath brought faytour lane To halle and chambre, to lordes, for mede.	60
	(9)	
Your mean- ing is worse than your words. You like war	¶ 'Thy wikked speche come fro ferre. Euel thou spekest, worse dost mene. Thou woldest euere more were werre,	
	(ffor profyt and pilage thou myght glene,) Cristen blod destroyed clene, And townes brent on a glede. Thy conscience is ful lene;	68
for your own profit's sake,	Thou noldest not come ther but for mede.	72
	(10)	
Wicked men always are cowards;	¶ 'In wikked lyuer no good counsayle, Is coward of kynde nyat and day.	
good ones, valiant war- riors.	Good lyucre dar fende and assayle, And hardy in dede brougt to bay.	76

I wolde thou were brougt to assay

At nede a wys counseil to rede.

Were thou as hardy as thou art gay,

3e were wel worthy to have good mede.

80

84

(11)

¶ 'Thenketh the not it doth the good,

Whan thou out of thy bed dost swerue?

3e clothe zow, and do on zoure hod,

At tyme of day thy mete dost kerue.

Why dost thou thy seluen serue ?

I trowe thou do it for gret nede;

ffor hunger and cold elles myghtest thou sterue.

This preueth thou seruest al for mede.'

88 You do everything for meed.

[Early in III. Treuth, reste, and pes.

[Digby 102, leaf 100.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Or drede ofte my lippes y steke,

ffor false reportours, that troubte mys-famed.

3ut Charitee chargeth me to speke.

bou; troupe be dred, he nys not ashamed.

Troube secheb non hernes ther los is lamed;

Troube is worschiped at euery des.

In that kyngdom ther troupe is blamed, God sendes vengeaunce to make troube have pes. 8

(2)

¶ Troube is messager to ryat,

And ryst is counseille to Iustice;

Instice in goddis stede is dyat.

Do euene lawe 1 to foot and wyse.

Set mesure in euene assise.

The riste were as lawe ges.

And lawe be kept, folk nyl not ryse.

That kyngdom shal have reste and pes. 16

Truth is often concealed by false reports,

but it always

appears

Do everybody

12 [1 leaf 100 b]

keep the laws.

	(3)	
A king should not believe tale-	¶ 3if suche a tale-tellere were,	
bearers, but hear both	To a kyng apayre a mannys name,	
parties, and punish ca-	The kyng shulde bope partyes here,	
lumniators.	And punysche be fals for defame.	20
	pan fals men wolde ases for blame;	
	ffor falshed, body and soule it sles.	
	ffalshed endes ay in shame;	
	And troupe, in worschipe and in pes.	24
	(4)	
If the laws	¶ Whanne lawe is put fro rizt assise,	
are violated, the com-	And domes man made by mede,	
moners rise	ffor fawte of lawe 3if comouns rise,	
and waste	pan is a kyngdom most in drede.	28
the realm.	ffor whanne vengeaunce a comouns lede,	
	bei do gret harm er bey asses.	
	There no man oper dop mysbede,	
	That kyngdom shal have reste and pes.	32
	(5)	
	¶ Whan craft riseb agens craft,	
They go to	In burgh, toun, or citee,	
They go to fight the lords.	pey go to lordes whan lawe is laft,	
	Whoche party may strengere be.	36
But wise men	But wyse men þe sonere se	
provide against such	By witles wille pey gedre pres,	
revolts.	Or lordis medle in foly degre,	
	Let lawe have cours in reste and pes.	40
	(6)	
	¶ 3it þere is þe þridde distaunce	
	Bryngep a kyngdom in moche noy3e:	
Frequent	Ofte chaunge of gonernaunce	
change of government	Of all degre, lowe and hyze.	44
is also a damage for	A kyng may not al aspie.	
a kingdom.	Summe telle hym sob, summe telle hym les.	
	pe whete fro pe chaf 3e try3e,	٠

So move 3e leue in reste and pes.

(7)

¶ I speke not in specyale
Of oo kyngdom the lawe to telle;
I speke hool in generale
In eche kyngdom the lawe to telle.
Also is writen in þe gospelle
A word þat god hym-seluen ches:
Raþere þan fiʒte, a man go selle
On of his cloþes, and biʒe hym pes.

52

56

God says,
"Rather than
fight sell your
clothes to
buy peace."

(8)

¶ A worpi kny;t wol worchip wynne;
He wil not jelde hym pou; me pret,
But rapere as Malice dop begynne,
Quenche hit at pe firste het.
ffor, and je lete it growe gret,
Hit brennep breme as fyre in gres.
Laweles nouellerye loke je lete,
So mowe je lyue in reste and pes.

A worthy man will stifle malice in its birth.

64

(9)

¶ Old speche is spoken 30re:
What is a kyngdom tresory?
Bestayle, corn stuffed in store,
Riche comouns, and wyse clergy;
Marchaundes, squyers, chiualry
That wol be redy at a res,
And cheualrous kyng in wittes hy3e,
To lede in were, and gouerne in pes.

There is an old saying:

68 Rich commoners, a wise clergy, valiant knights, and a wise and chivalrous king

72 form the treasury of a state.

(10)

¶ Among philosofres wyse,
In here bokes, men writen fynde
pat synne is cause of cowardyse;
Wel lyuyng man, hardy of kynde;
Wikked lyuere, graceles blynde;
He dredep dep, pe laste mes.
pe good lyuere hap god in mynde;
pat mannys counseil makep pes.

According to philosophers, good men are brave, [leaf 101]

76 wicked ones cowards.

	(11)	
A good king will be led by wise coun- sellors.	¶ What kyng that wol haue good name, He wol be lad by wys counsayle	
	pat lone worschip, and dreden shame,	
	And boldely dar fende and assayle.	84
	here wit is, corage may not fayle,	
	ffor wysdom neuere worschip les.	
	Corage in querell dop batayle,	
	And ende of batayle bygynnep pes.	88
	(12)	
Want of wit	¶ Defaute of wit make long counsayle;	
makes long connsel.	ffor witteles wordes in ydel spoken,	
	be more cost, be lesse anayle;	
	ffor fawte of wyt, purpos broken.	92
	In enyl soule no grace is stoken,	
[nota]	ffor wikked soule is graceles.	
Good men's	In good lynere goddis wille is loken,	
counsel makes peace.	pat mannys counself makep pes.	96
	(13)	
The public	¶ To wete 3if parlement be wys,	
welfare will show whether	be comoun profit wel it preues.	
a parliament is wise. The com-	A kyngdom in comouns lys,	
mons make	Alle profytes, and alle myscheues.	100
the kingdom	Lordis wet neuere what comouns greues	
	Til here rentis bigynne to ses.	
	pere lordis ere, pore comons releues,	
	And mayntene hem in werre and pes.	104
	(14)	
Make God	¶ Make god 3oure ful frend;	
your friend,	Do pe comaundement pat he bede.	
	bous all be world agen sow wend,	
then you need	Be god 3oure frend, 3e thar not drede:	108
not fear your enemies,	ffor pere as god his frendis lede,	
	He sauep hem bope on lond and sees.	
	Who so figtep, god dop be dede,	
for he gives victory.	ffor god is victorie and pes.	112

(15)

¶ What kyngdom werreb hym-self wib-ynne, Distroyeb hym-self, and no mo.

Civil wars destroy a kingdom.

Wib-oute here enemys bygynne On eche a syde assayle hem so.

The enemies will waste it 116 and kill the commons.

be comouns, bey wil robbe and slo, Make fyere, and kyndel stres. Whan ryches and manhode is wastede and go.

120

ban drede dryueb to trete pes.

(16)

The world is like a fals lemman. ffayre semblaunt, and moche gyle.

Wibouten heire dyeb no man :

God is chief lord of toun and pyle. God makeb mony heire in a whyle,

124 God is the chief lord of everything.

ffor god ressayueb eche reles; God kan breke hegge and style, And make an hey wey to pes.

128

(17)

¶ God made lordis gouernoures To gouerne puple in vnyte. be puple, ne ryches, nys not zoures:

Lords are only to govern the people.

Al is goddis, and so be 3e. Eche day ze may zoure myrrour se. Eche man after ober deses:

132 God is the liege-lord of

3oure auncetres arn gon, after shal 3e, To endeles werre, or endeless pes.

136

(18)

¶ Eche kyng is sworn to gouernaunce To gouerne goddis puple in rigt.

Eche kyng bereb swerd 1 of goddis vengeaunce To felle goddis foon in fiat.

And so dob euerons honest knyat That bereb be ordre as it wes:

The plough, be chirche, to mayntene ryst, Are goddis champyons, to kepe be pes.

govern the people justly, [1 leaf 101 b] 140 and to fight the enemies of God; and so is every honest

Every king is sworn to

IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.	
(19)	
¶ The world is like a chery fayre,	
Ofte chaunger all his pynges.	
Riche, pore, foul, and fayre,	
Popes, prelates and lordynges, 14	8
Alle are dedly, and so ben kynges;	
Or dep lede 30w in his les,	
Arraye by tyme soure rekenynges,	
And trete wip god to gete 30w pes. 15	2
, , , ,	
(20)	
¶ What bryngeþ a kyngdom al aboue?	
Wys counseil, and good gouernaunce;	
Eche lord wil other loue,	
And rule wel labourrers sustynaunce. 15	6
God maket for his frendis no destaunce,	
ffor god kan skatre þe grete pres.	
God for his frendis map ordynaunce,	
And gouernet hem in werre and pes. 16	0
(01)	
(21)	
¶ Good lyf is cause of good name;	
Good name is worthi to have reveraunce.	

Every kingdom is in God's hand,

14

The world is like a cherry fair.

All men are mortal. Settle your affairs before death surprise you.

Wise counsel and good

government make a kingdom thrive.

God helps his friends.

Eche kyngdom hongeþ in goddis balaunce;
Wiþ hym þat holdeþ, wiþ hym þat fles.

3c haue fre wille; chese 30ure chaunce,
To haue wip god, werre or pes. 168

IV. Yerne say wele, say litel, or say nogt.

[Digby 102, leaf 101, back.] [31 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

As be see dob ebbe and flowe,
So fareb be world hyder and bedere.

Agen be wynd they sayle and rowe
To gadre worldys gooddis to-gedere.

Synne is cause of greuaunce.

Who strives only for worldly goods,

4

36 your friend,

11. 11carn to bag 11 cm, 12 week, or 11 willing.		10
At pe last it gop, y wot not whyder, As ende of web out of slay. And hem-self stoden so slydere, How it is wip hym, y kan not say.	8	stands on a slippery ground.
(2)		
¶ Sum man dar not be pef for drede;		Some people dare not
His troupe is vice, and no vertue.		show their wickedness
In heuene he nys not worpi mede,		openly from fear;
pat clopes troupe in falsed hewe.	12	,
Maugre his teep he is trewe;		
Stoken in presoun as best fro stray,		
Here wikked wille growep newe;		but their ill- will always
pey thenke more pan pey say.	16	betrays them.
(3)		
¶ Men may not staunche a comoun noys,		Everybody is
Noper for love ne for awe.		judged by the
After men lyne is comoun voys,		common voice accord-
In wrongwys dede, or ry3t lawe.	20	ing to his
Who dop hem pyne, who dop hem pawe,		conduct.
Eche on telle oper, child and may.		
The that to vertues drawe,		
Hem thar not recche what [men] say.	24	
(4)		
¶ Tak fro pi foo, and zeue pi frende;		Don't assist
Tak not fro thy frend, to zeue bi foo:		your enemies, but help your
by frend wole holde be vnhende;		friends.
bow haddest on enemy, ban hast boul two.	28	
Man, be war er pou do so;		
To grene the he wol assay;		[leaf 102]
When pyn enemys wexen mo,		
Litil worchipe of pe say.	32	
(5)		
¶ Oo prouerbe loke 3e preue,		
3e pat wole to resoun bende:		
Look what ney3ebore most may greue;		Make your
70 1		neighbours

By al way make hym bi frende. ¹ MS. pⁿ. As the MS. has "thou," 4/116, 8/46, above, I print pⁿ 'pou.' In my first-edited text of some Saints' Lives (Philolog. Soc. 1862) I printed is as the Northern 'ie' instead of the Southern 'ieh' as I ought to have done. Dr. R. Morris told me of the mistake.—F. J. F.

16	IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.	
and your enemies will flee from you	pan wole pyn enemys fro pe wende, Here owen pouzt wol hem afflay. Be out of daunger of the fende, And recche neuere what men say.	40
	(6)	
Many people betray their own faults by finding themselves hit by a general blame of vices.	¶ To synge or preche generale, Werkys of vices for to blame, Summe tak to hem speciale,	
	And say, "felow, pou dost vs blame." pere he accusep his owen name; All pat hym se, knowe it may, He can not hele his owen shame;	44
	And so, all folk wole say.	48
	(7)	
	¶ 3if men speke of goddis wille, To preyse werkys of vertue, A good man wole holde hym stille,	
Vainglorious people are belied by their own works.	And lete as he hem neuere knewe, And noper chaunge hyde ne hewe; ffor vaynglory wolde hem betray. Who is fals, and who is trewe,	52
	After pey lyue, all folk wole say.	56
	(8)	
	¶ Thou; a man holynes preche, He shetep no;t, but bent his bowe; But he lyue as he teche,	
Everybody wiil reap as he sows.	He nys not trusty for to trowe; ffor suche seed he dop sowe In stones, in thornes, and in clay,	60
	The same he schal repe and mowe; So he is worthy, folk wole say.	64
	(9)	
	¶ A lord of hym-self hap no wyt,	
	He knowe wele, but no wo;	
	Of pore men he mot have hit, Knowelechyng of frend and fo.	68
	• 0	

IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing		17
He is wys, that can do so, And wel twynnen hem o tway. In sykernes may he go, And recche neuere what men say.	72	He is wise, who knows his friends from his enemies.
(10)		
¶ Gloseres maken mony lesynges— Al to sone men hem leue¹— Boþe to lordys and to kynges,		Glozers tell lies to lords and kings.
pat bope partye ofte greue. ² Wolde lordis seche repreue, Glosers shuld not go so gay, Ne not so hardy for to meue	76	
Suche wordes as they say.	80	
(11) ¶ Thou; prestes prechyng hem avyse, Or mynstrallis synge in song now, A glosere wole a lord askuse: Sire, þey synge or preche of gow. þe lord vnderstondes not how þe fals[e] glosere hym bitray;	84	Lords ought to listen to the warnings of minstrels and priests, and make. glozers an- swer for their words.
Wolde he make be word avowe, He wolde ausse hym eft to say.	88	
(12) ¶ Many can stomble at a stre; pey nyl not snapere at a style, And graunte purpos nay and 3ee, pouz his pouzt be pens a myle.	92	
Whan falsed lawhep, he forgep gyle; Half in malice is his play. Wip wysdom who so voydep that wyle,		Mind the
He is ¹ wys, all folk wole say.	96	tricks of flatterers. [1 leaf 102 b]
(13) Thous man in order treats banks		
¶ Thou; men in erbe troupe hyde, On halle roof he wole be sayn. In botme of see he nyl not byde,		Truth can never be hid,
But shewe in market, on the playn.	100	
¹ MS. leues ² MS. greues POEMS (OXF.).	:	

18	IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.	
it always appears again,	And pou; troupe a while be slayn, And doluen depe vnder clay, 3ut he wole ryse to lyue agayn, And al the sothe he wole say.	104
Many men don't follow reason, but their fleshly	(14) ¶ Many callen conscience fleschly willis, And nelen non opere counseil craue.	
will.	But soule of reson is gostly skillis, pat conscience shal hem deme, or saue. flleschely wille is fendes knaue, Out of reson, out of stray.	108
	As they disserve, pey shal have, ffor so dop pe gospel say.	112
	(15)	
Falsehood would bind the tongue of Truth. But God sends Venge- ance to her help.	I ffalshed wolde troupes tunge teyge ffor trewe wordis pat he hap spoken; God biddep vengeaunce hize,	
	And helpe troupe be wel wroken. ffor troupe lippes ar faste stoken, And false mede hap be kay.	116
	Whan vengeaunce hap look broken, pan troupe shal al pe sop say.	120
	(16)	
Now-a-days holidays are turned to gluttony;	¶ Sumtyme men halwed the holyday; Now holiday is turned to glotonye. Sumtyme men vsed honest play;	
honesty, to villany; love, to lechery.	And now it is turned to vilonye; And paramour is turned to lecherye,— Sumtyme was loue of good fay,—	124
	And shameles haunted so comounly, Vnnepe pey recche what men say.	128
	(17)	
Some men sow their seed on stones;	¶ Summe men sowe here seed in skornes, Ofte on opere mennys londes;	
others, among thorns.	Summe on stones, summe on thornes, Summe on hize way, summe on sondes.	132

He bat wel vnderstondes, Amende while he mende may, Make hym clene, and wasche his hondes, And recche neuere what men say.

Amend while you may.

136

(18)

Thou; holy chirche shulde fawtes mende, Summe put hem of for mede; And summe wib maystrize hem defende. That holy chirche stant of hem drede. bo bat recchelesly sowe here sede,

Some people get rid of their sins for meed. others even defend them.

140

Here lond of vertues ligge ful lay. be holy chirche be corn shuld wede ; ffor cowardis, bey dar not say.

and the church, from 144 cowardice, does not intervene.

(19)

I Gloseres that wib lordis bene, bey thryue faste bou; bey come late, ffor bey wole a lord to wene bat he is byloued ther men hym hate. And wib his frendis make debate, Of pore puple pyke here pray. Of all degre, of eche astate, After bey lyne, all folk wole say.

Glozers make a lord believe that he is liked by his

enemies, 148 and disliked by his friends,

> and persuade him to deprive poor people of their

152 property.

(20)

I ffro goddis syat, who may stele Word or werk, be lest bougt? be comoun voys nyl not hele, But loue, or hate, as werk is wrougt; ffor sopnes neuere hernes sou;t. Who secheb wel, he may assay. The good[e] lyuere neuere rou;t Of his werkis what men say.

Nobody can conceal his intentions:

the public voice will 156 [leaf 103] praise, or condemn him, according to his works.

160

(21)

¶ Of all degre, of eche astate, After desert be name hab prys. pat lord his owen worship dob hate, bat zeueb anober his offys-

A lord spoils his own good name if he gets his work 164 done by another

20

Give nothing to glozers though they

but help poor men who

pray for you.

Nota

Works without discretion

don't please God,

nor do prayers without

Formerly, if

a lord gained

the flatteries of glozers.

military glory, he would refuse

devotion.

crave,

3if a glosere wolde telle

After bey lyue, alle folk wole say. 192

(25)

¶ A cheuenteyn may fy;te o day, A general may win tobe victorye wib hym stande; day, and lose ffor synne god mon tak it away, to-morrow

196 And put his swerd in enemys hande. for his sins.

IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.

Vertues make free, vices make bonde.

To-day is quyk, to-morwe is fay.

pat knew hym-self, he wolde wonde

Any good of him self wolde say.

200

204

208

212

216

(26)

¶ What a glosere here or see,
pou; it shulde to shame falle,
He knowep in chambre preuytee,
Tellep his felow in pe halle;
And felow to felow, tyl pey knowe alle,
ffro toun to toun, in all contray.
The glosere pe comoun voyce hit calle,
ffor non shulde knowe who first dede say.

Glozers divulge their lords' secrets all over the country.

(27)

¶ A good man dop a lord gret ese,
pat is a trewe officere,
pat wel can serue a lord to plese,
Passe not pe boundes of his powere.
In preuyte vnwetand he may come nere.
Be handles, and stele no pyng away;
Be blynd of ey3e, and deef of here;
Be dombe of mouth, and no pyng say.

A true officer does not pass beyond the bounds of his power.

(28)

¶ I wolde suche a statute were,
And per-vpon set a payne,
What soget ¹ wolde make his souereyn swere
pat he tolde in counseil layne.
Oft glosere makep lordis fayne,
Passe pe boundes of here play.
Al pat troupe hap her and sayne,
All tymes nys not sop to say.

There should be a statute against such people as make their lord fail of his word.

[1] leaf 103 b]

224

(29)

¶ When al pe world is purgh sou3t, In his best tyme is worst to trest. bis world is a fayre nou3t, A fals lemman, pat chaunge lest;

The world is fickle and not to be trusted.

22 11.1	rear it to say it ett, Date, or Trouting. T. it	co m iii.
Your end is vain regret.	His last ende is had-y-wist, When dep hap by lyues kay. "Litel while he mon be myst," So be executours wol say.	232
	(30)	
While your executors reckon your riches and make merry, the devils count your sins, and lead you to eternal pains.	¶ They rekene his richesse what it amountes, Ete and drynke, synge 'hay 30l hayl,' þe while þe fendis his synnes countes, And bryng to hym þe countertayl; Wiþ hard paynes hym assaile. Wiþ berkande fendis brougt to bay, What helpeþ his riches or wys counsaile? Hym self his owen tale shal say.	236 240
	(31)	
Do as you would be	¶ God made oo lawe for eche astate, Riche and pore in al degre: Do no wrong ne [no] debate, But as pou wolde men dede by pe.	244
would be done by.	ffor god hym self, pis wrot he, Betok to Moyses in his lay. Be goddis childre in charyte, As god dop in the gospell say.	248
	V. delyt & delille.	
	[Digby 102, leaf 103, back.]	
	[9 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]	
	(1)	
Beware of bad counsel,	Man, be war of wikkid counsaile, He wol the lede in wayes slidre;	
it fails you at need.	And make þi goode men to shidre. Rizt as hay, þey mon widre;	4
	As blades of gres, his seed dop spille. Gostly blynd gop, and not neuere whidre,	
	bat leneb wit, and worchib by wille.	8

(2)

¶ Who so wist, what tresoure
He hap pat worchep by wit;
pe fader of heuene is gouernoure,
pe holigost, pe sone wip hit.
In oo godhede alle pre are knyt,
Non departe fro oper nylle;
In eche mannys herte alle pre h

Who works with wisdom, harbours God within him.

In eche mannys herte, alle pre pey syt, pat makep wit lord aboue his wille.

16

(3)

¶ Who so wyste what wille harmes,
pat willefully fro wyt wendes;
ffro þe fader of heuene his soule he charmes,
ffro grace of þe holygost hym blendes,
ffro angels pere, soget to fendes,
pat nyl not mende, but ay don ylle.
Gostely and bodily hym self he shendes,
pat leueþ wyt, and worcheþ by wille.

20

Who follows his will, 24 spoils him-

(4)

¶ In kyngdom, what makeb debate,
Riche and pore both anoy3ed?
3ong counseil, and preuey hate,
And syngulere profit ys aspi3ed,
Hi3e and lowe men aby3ed;
Echon wayte ober for to kille.
bat kyngdom mot nede be stri3ed,
That leueb wit, and worcheb by wille.

Bad counsel, secret hate, and private interest

destroy a kingdom.

(5)

¶ That leuep troupe, and falshed vse,
And ¹lyue not after goddis sawe,
Suche folk god dop despuse,
Rebell and ryse agen his lawe.
po puple that stondes of god non awe,
But robbe and reue, coffres to fylle:
pe swerd of vengeaunce on hem is drawe,
pat leuep wit, and worchep by wille.

Who uses falsehood, [1 leaf 104] brings the anger of God 36 upon him.

	(6)	
	¶ That ouer puple han gouernaunce, Loke how goddis lawe 3e vse;	
Look whom	Whom 3e refuse, and whiche auaunce,	
you advance, and whom	ffor goddis loue, or 30ure owen seruyce,	44
you refuse.	Whiche is be charge 30w auyse.	
	Let eche man serue his charge in skylle,	
	And 3oure werkis preue 3ow wyse.	
	Let wit be lord aboue thy wylle.	48
	(7)	
Be not too proud in	¶ Be not to crowele in by wele,	
your happi- ness;	pou nost how sone pou my3t haue lesse.	
,	Be not to sykere of pyne hele,	
	bou not how sone falle in sykenesse.	52
death may suddenly	Dep claymep eche man for hesse,	
surprise you.	And sodeyn, dep no dayes selle.	
	Sip no man is in sykernesse,	
	Be redy euere at goddis wille.	56
	(8)	
	¶ And on by strengbe be not to bold,	
Don't scorn poor and	Ne skorne no pore, ne feble of elde.	
old people: you may yourself	ffor lyue longe 3e mon be old,	
grow old and	In feblenes to hoke and helde,	60
feeble.	In cowardys 30ure corage kelde.	
	But 3e had help, 3e shuld spille.	
	3e pat heuene blisse wole welde,	C 4
	Let wit be lord aboue 3 oure wille.	64
	(9)	
God has given you	¶ God hap lent 30w discrecioun	
discretion of good	Boye of wele and of woo,	
and evil; practise	Werkis of deuocioun,	
virtue,	Vyces, vertues, frend, and foo.	68
	Sip 3e can part hem wel o two,	
	Let vyces on 30w brynge no bille.	
and let wis-	be weye of grace, and 3e wol go,	70
dom rule over	Let wyt be lord aboue 3 oure wille.	72

VI. To lyf1 bodyly, is perylous.

[Digby 102, leaf 104.] [9 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

erne bodyly to lyue.

py seruaunt, non hyre pou pay.

Pore ne riche, no ziftes zeue,

But take and gedre al pat pou may;

bous it come wip wrong, say not nay,
But falsely loke bou swere and lize.

be pore man is the riches pray. Lerne bus to lyue bodilye.

(2)

¶ There market beteres gadere in prong, Loke pat company pou lede.

Stalworply mayntene wrong;

So may bou wynne moche mede.

To reue fro pore take non hede.

Do as bou boust neuere to dye.

Say nober pater noster ne crede.

Lyue pou in ese bodyly.

(3)

¶ Rechelesly be gouerne,
Day and ny3t; walke late

At cokes hostry and tauerne.

bouz bat no man obere hate,

Go not er bou make debate.

To lewed, lettred, and clergye,

Do no reuerence to non astate:

pan men wole drede pe bodylye.

(4)

¶ The pat pe good wolde teche, Rebuke hem, and foule despise; Byd hem go to pe chirche and preche. ffolwe ²fooles, and fle fro wyse.

1 read 'lyue,' vb.

Give nobody his due,

4 but take from everybody.

8

Maintain wrong,

rob the poor,

never say a

prayer.

Stroll about, day and night, in the taverus,

20 and set people

another.

24

Despise those who teach you good,

28 follow fools' counsels;
[2 leaf 104 b]

VI. To live for the Body only, is Perilous.	
3eue no doom in rist assyse. file fro troupe and pou hym spye. Loke pou be proudest in alle gyse: pan men wole preyse pe bodylye.	32
(5)	
¶ Loke pou haue sorwe sad Whan pou seest folk haue welfare; Loke pou be mery and glad	
Whan pou wost folk haue sorwe and care.	36
ffede non hungry, ne clope no bare; Lete herberweles perout ly;	
Visite no syke, and prisoners spare. Loue by seluen bus bodyly.	40
(6)	
¶ 3if þy man be a good seruaunt	
pat pe were lop to for-go,	
Stele pyn owen good fro his hand,	4.4
Bere on hym he stal it so.	44
Bryng hym in presoun tho, Longe there for to lye,	
Til he be fayn, for sorwe and wo,	
To swere to serue pe bodylye.	48
(7)	
¶ And 3if bou haue a damysele	
pat serueb be wel, of trewe lynage,	
ffonde to make here wombe to swelle,	
Make no fors of no maryage.	52
And 3if she grucche wip be to rage,	
And alway fro the wole wrye,	
Bete here, and seue here non oper wage,	F 0
And lyue in lustes bodylye.	56

(8)

Thus you will get shame.

but beat

26
never pass a just sentence.

Be sorry at the happiness of others, and pleased at their misfortune.

Do nobody a benefit.

Calumniate your faithful servant,

and cause him to be imprisoned.

Get a maid with a child,

don't marry her,

¶ Thus make pe byknowe.

After py dede, resceyue thy name.

So shal byn horn oft[e] blowe.

So shal byn horn oft[e] blowe, And hunte after his owen shame.

3e, bou; bou be of feble fame, Bere good visage, by nourt aspye, Make berof but iape and game In fleschly lustis bodylye.

64

(9)

¶ At masse, at matyns, rule 30w so: Leue dewe deuocioun zow byhynde. Speke no good of frend ne foo, Lete non skorneles fro 30w wende ; Loke no man be thy frende; Lete no man thryue, but do hem nye;

Speak good of nobody. 68

> do harm to every man;

Kepe hem pore, and to be bende : pen wole bev drede be bodylye.

72 then all will dread you.

VII. Man, know thy self, and lerne to due.

[Digby 102, leaf 104, back,] [15 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Tannys soule is sotyl and queynt, Shal neuere ende bous he dede gynne. The flesch is fals[e], frele, and feynt, pe world alone wolde wynne : Is wormes mete, and sek of synne; He nys neuere filt of glotonye; His clobyng is a dedly skynne. Man, knowe by self, and lerne to dye!

Man's soul is noble and immortal:

his body, mean and mortal.

¶ Lerne to dye, and go to skole, Sib bou fro deb may not fle. Lete not by werkys preue be fool. Whan deb wole assaile be, Sende warnestor to by soule to be: by vices fro by vertues trize. 3e sette 3oure soule in kynges gre, pat lerneb wisely for to dize.

Learn to die wisely,

nor let your works prove

16

	(3)	
All men must die;	¶ Eche man in certayn is to dye,	
,	At domesday stonde in drede.	
[1 leaf 105]	here al he worldis tresorye	
neither meed nor wise	May not bye 1thy lyf for mede,	20
counsel nor flattery can	No wys counseil pat dede pe lede,	
buy your life.	Ne glosere wip his flaterye;	
	Non may helpe oper at nede:	
	ffor thy, man, wysely lerne to dye.	24
	(4)	
[nota]	¶ What may thy richesse be anale	
Don't hoard up treasures,	Whan bou art to depe dryue?	
for they are useless after death.	Thy wynd is layd, bou mayst not sayle,	
ucatii.	pous pou lete out bonet and ryue.	28
Practise virtue.	Loke to vertues bou be 3yue	
vii tite.	Er tombe be held to pe lize;	
	ffor he pat gostly wel dop lyue,	
	He lernep wysely for to dize.	32
	(5)	
	¶ Two skilles y wole telle	
Detain others	Why eche man shuld repreue operes synne :	
from sin; for if wicked people go	And he wyst hym self shuld go to helle,	
with you to	Counseyle no mo to come per-ynne:	36
they increase the heat;	pe mo brondes, pe hattere brynne,	
,	Incresyng of his maladye;	
	Here nys no charite, 3ut shal he wynne	
	To lasse his pyne after he dye.	40
	(6)	
	¶ And 3 if he wiste to heuene to go,	
if holy men	His soule be saued in sikirnes,	
go with you to heaven, they increase	He shulde counseile all folk do so,	
your joy.	Saue here soules, and do not mys;	44
	Noust for here profyt, but al for his,	
	His owen loye for to hyze;	
	þe mo soules, þe more blis.	

penk here-on, and lerne to dyze.

(7)

¶ Thy wikked werkis in py 30wthe, Seke hem wel tyll pou hem fynde, And al by tyme rigt til nowbe;

And all by tyme rist til nowbe; Loke bat fardel bou vnbynde,

Loke pat fardel pou vnbynde,
And shewe it wel wip shrift wynde;

No fende spot vppon the spy3e; And haue repentaunce in mynde.

On pis manere lerne to dyze.

(8)

¶ While man dop synne in werkis wylde, Al pat tyme he nys but ded;

He nys not counted as fool ne childe, But as a man can good and qued.

ffor his soule he telyeb no bred;

Here landis of vertue laye don lyze.

Do comaundementis pat god bed, pan lernest pou wysely to dvae.

(9)
¶ Pore, nedy, and gredy, pat not ne haue,

In goddis name zeue þat asken ouzt. Pore, nedy, and not gredy, þat nozt ne craue,

3eue hem þou3 þey ne aske nou3t. And nedeles gredy þyn almes sou3t,

3eue hem no pyng pou; pey crye: pere nys no nede, zifte hap no mede.

Suche almesdede mon neuere dye.

(10)

¶ What argument may beter preue Why men ben bent to don o mys?

Not but defaute of byleue.

I trowe pey wene no god per nys, Ne helle pyne ne heuene blys,

Paradis ne purgatorie,

Or elles, a-noper heresy pere is,

As a best wipoute soule to die.

52 Confess

and repent al your sins.

As long as a man is in sin, his soul is dead.

60

64

Give alms to the poor though they don't crave:

68

but bestow nothing on undeserving people.

72

Disbeliet is the cause of sin.

(11)

	. ,	
Man has nothing ot his own;	¶ Man, of his owen, nouşten haue; Al is goddis, and he it lent.	
God will call	perof god wole rekenyng craue,	
him to account for	How bou it wan, held, and spent;	84
everything.	by leste bougt, and what it ment;	
[1 leaf 105 b]	Troupe, ¹ and lesyng bou dede lize;	
[- teat 1000]	And get by soule is goddis rent:	
	So quyte pat wel, lerne to dize.	88
	so quyte pat wei, terne to dize.	00
	(12)	
Cry mercy	¶ Whanne bou dest byn almesdede,	
that your almsdeeds	Crie god mercie it is so lite.	
are so little in compari-	To counte by richesse bou myst haue drede,	
son with your sins.	In partye of payment so litel quyte.	92
	bous bou do mys, god nyl not flyte	
	Ne prete pe ones ne twy3e;	
	Body and soule he can smyte.	
	Man, drede god, so lerne to dy3e.	96
	(13)	
Don't hope	¶ Man, synne not in ouerhope,	
too mucli nor	bou wynnest not goddis mercy wip figt;	
	Hit wolde brynge be in-to wanhope,	
	To wene no mercy bou haue ne myst.	100
God is just	Goddis mercy is medled wip his ryat,	
and merciful.	And fro ryst, god nyl not plyse;	
	After be dede, be doom is dy3t.	
*	Man, knowe pis wile er pou dyze.	104
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	(14)	
Deadly sins	¶ Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf.	

Deadly sins are mortal knives: virtues are plasters to heal the wounds.

Why loue men panne so ofte to synne?

Eche vertue is a plastre of lyf.

He hap fre wille; lese, or wynne.

To salue 3 oure sores now begynne;

pe holigost 3 oure grace gy3e.

Sip body and soule mon parte o twynne,

To saue py soule, lerne to dy3e.

112

(15)

Truste not al to obere men, In almes dede ne prevere :

ffor state of soule can no man kenne. ffor bey ben alle in goddis daungere,

In helle pyne, or blisse clere. Repentaunce mot mercy byge.

While by dede is in by powere,

Be byn awen frend er bou dyge.

Don't rely on other people,

116 all are in

the hand of God:

120

work while you may.

VIII. A good makunge of jour delaye.

[Against the Clergy. A.D. 1408-9] [Diaby 102, leaf 105, back.]

[13 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

an, haue hit in þy þoust Of what matere bou maked is. God made the of nou;t;

Al bat bou hast, bou wost, is his.

Wheber hast bou served pyne or blisse, Seche by werkis, and assaye : by getyng, by holdyng, by spendyng mysse,

ffro blisse wolde make Iour delaye.

To by bed whan bou shalt go, benk what bou hast don sen morn;

Where serued blisse or wo,

Or goddis name in ydel sworn,

Or ellys fals[e] witnesse born.

Letted pore men of here pray,

In by defaut here goodis lorn :

bou shalt answere here iour delay.

(3)

¶ Who takeb cure, he bereb charge By goddis lawe, be folk to preche bey make conscience large.

Take type, and nyl not teche.

nota

but also 20 parishioners.

Curates should not only take their tithes, teach their

16

12

4

Think every day what sins you have committed.

Consider whether you deserve

heaven, or hell.

32 VIII	. A Day's Delay: against the Clergy. A.D.	1408-9.
[nota]	Crist his postles tau;t in speche ffro worldis worschip to wende a-way, Gostly and bodyly þe soules to leche,	
	And bad hem make no iour delay.	24
	(4)	
Don't strive for riches and worldly honours;	¶ Worldis good nes not holichirche; Richesse and worschep y 30w forbede.	
work for the people's	be folkis cherche, in hem 3e worche;	
happiness; don't hire others to do	Here noo oper to don by dede.	28
your office.	pat dop be dede, is worby mede. bou mayst not serue two lordis to pay;	
	bat on he serue in loue and drede,	
	pat obere he serueb wib iour delay.	32
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
	(5)	
Those who receive bene-	\P Who ressayue benefys for richesse and ese	
fices only for revenues'	To haue his lyuyng in sykernes	
sake, dis- please God,	Rapere pan serue god to plese,	36
	He ressayueb hit o mys.	90
[1 leaf 106]	ffor rigt ¹ as Iudas dede kys Ihesus, and after, hym betray,	
and betray	So pey gyle pe soules fro blisse,	
the souls of their parish-	Of goddis seruyce make iour delay.	40
ioners.	, or goddin on ajon mino tom attag.	
	(6)	
	¶ Many seyn, "god is so wys,	
	Endeles ful of all mercy;	
	God nyl not, pouz y be nys,	
	Lese me purgh myn owen foly;	44
	So dere god mankynde dede bye;	
	What greue god, bous y go gay?"	
Whoever sins in excess of hope, shall be	pat synnen in ouerhope, in helle mon ly3e; pere-of mon be non iour delay.	48
damned.	(7)	
Some men	¶ Many wole say, bat leue vneuene,	
Some men say, 'If all		

Some men say, 'If all sinners were punished, nearly all mankind would go to hell.'

So fele as shulde come in heuene,
So fele as shulde renne hedlyng to helle,

VIII. A Day's Delay: against the Clergy. A.D.	140	8-9. 33
Hit were hard pere to dwelle, Wip helle houndis stonde to bay." Synne mon be punsched, as saip be gospelle; perof mon be no iour delay.	56	
(8)		
If That ouere puple haue astate, Colege or eny oper degre, Mayntene no debate ffor synguler profyt of temperalte. 3 oure rule is groundid in charyte, As list of lanterne to lede be way. To gouerne be puple in vnyte,	60	Those who rule over the people, should not strive for their own profit, but to promote the public weal.
God bad hem make no iour delay.	64	
(9) ¶ Beter is litel ryztwys wonne, pere-of among pe pore to dele, pan ouer moche geten wip synne, Wipouten desert take pore mennys wele, And helpe not pe soule to hele, But crye in pyne wey-laway. pe soules pe curatours wole apele To answere of here iour delay.	68 72	It is better to get little with right, than much with wrong. Folk's souls will accuse bad curates.
(10) ¶ Why ressayue 3e worschipe pat 3e haue? ffor 3oure vertues, or for 3oure vys? And 3e ful worschip saue, In word and werk 3e mot be wys. pis worldly wysdom is gostly nys, Whan werk acordep not wip wordis 3e say. Heuene blys, and pis worldis delys, pat on wil make iour delay.	76 80	Are you respected for virtues or for virtues or for vices? Your wicked works will prove you to be fools.
(11) ¶ Thow may not knowe a cristen man		Whoever

bous bou here hym say his crede.

And speke, and do not be dede, FOEMS (OXF.).

be ten comaundementis tan,

says his creed. commandments,

D

84 but does not observe them,

34	IX. Treat with God of Love & Peace.	A.D. 1410.
is a heretic.	Ne serue god in loue and drede, Is heretyk out of fay. After 3oure werkis, ressayue by mede; perof mon be no iour delay.	88
	(12)	
Don't suffer your soul to be a thrall of riches;	¶ Thou; worldis richesse on pe falle, And wolde gon bytwen god and pe, Suffre not by soule be pralle;	
God bought lt to make it free.	penk, god boust it to make pe fre. bous by mayster a tyraunt be,	92
	ffro goddis lawe wolde say nay, Do as [thapostle] Poule bad be: Abyde, and suffre wib iour delay.	96
	, ,	•
You don't know when	(13) ¶ Man, þou wost wel þou shalt dy3e;	
and where you will die;	What dep, ne where, pou nost whenne.	
	And synnes wolde by soule ny3e, Ay more and more rerage we renne, And sodeyn deb nyl no man kenne.	100
therefore,	I rede we drede domesday;	
you should always be prepared for	Be euene wip world er 3e gon henne,	

always be prepared for death.

IX. With god of loue & pes, 3e trete.

[Easter, 1410.]

[Digby 102, leaf 106, back.]

[24 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Clean your souls by shrift,

Burnysche bry3t 30ure soules blake. ffro 30w to god, let be prest be mene. To do penaunce, and synnes forsake, Wib almes dede amendes make, And repentaunce may grace gete.

This holy tyme make 30w clene,

ffor bere schal be no iour delay.

repentance, and almsdeeds.

In goode werkis wysely wake, And wib god of pes, y rede 3e trete.

8

4

(2)

¶ Wip soulis bri3t in god 3e glade
As shynyng angels out of synne,
In worschip of hym pat 30w made,
To knowe 30ure seluen now bygynne.
To stryue wip god we may not wynne;
Bope body and soule he can bete.
Ihesus is broper of oure kynne;
ffor-by wip god of [pes] 3e trete.

You will not win if you strive with God.

16

20

(3)

¶ Ofte han we treted wip god o trewe,
And sayde no more synne we wolde;
And enery geere we breke it newe,
Thre dayes no trewes wip hym nele holde;
Synne to bay many a folde
On soules helle houndes slete.
Er 3e come pere, 3onge and olde,
Wip god of pes y rede 3e trete.

You always break your promise to sin no more.

Amend while you have time.

(4)

Trete while 3e haue 30ure hele,
ffor sodeyn dep stomblen as blynde.
pe grettere lordschipe of worldis wele,
pe more in praldom hit dop hem bynde.
Man, penke py lyf is but a wynde;
When pat is blowen, pou art for3ete;
Holde couenaunt to god, and be kynde.
ffor-py, wip god of pes 3e trete.

The greater the lordship, the greater the slavery in sin.

(5)

¶ 3e mot hit shewe, wip herte sorwe,
To a prest, and weel 30w shryue;
No3t turne a3en perto to-morwe,
But penke be good al thy lyue.
Wip goddis sonde looke 3e not stryue,
Ne derne mornyng counterfete.
Rekne wysely all py wittes fyue,
Wip god of pes when 3e do trete.

Confess your sins, repent, and give them up for ever.

36

40

The synnes pat wolde by soule apayre,
To a prest shewe be cas.

Loke pat bou not paynte hit fayre,
But shewe it forp rigt ful as it was.

pat shame is mede for by trespas;
ffor synne pat wolde by soule prete,
Aske mercy, and seche gras,
Wip god of pes when 3e trete.

48

(7)

Whoever clips money or uses false weights and measures, scorns God. ¶ That clippen money, bey haue be curs
ffoure tymes in be 3ere;
Here wastes, bat bey waye be wors,
3erde or elne, fer or nere;

Wheber bey selle good chep or dere:
But bey be full mesure mete,
Hit semeb in skornyng bat it were,
Wib god of pes whan 2e trete.

56

(8)

Carriers-out of the laws, do poor people justice! ¶ Auyse 30w þat leden lawe,
ffor drede of lordschipe or for mede
Holde no pore men in awe
To storble here ry3t or lette here nede.
Hit bryngeþ þe soule in gret drede,
A3ens goddis lawe to plete.
þe rolles ari3t y red 3e rede,
Wib god of pes when 2e trete.
64

(9)

Those who receive or pay fees and taxes, should not pervert the laws.

[leaf 107]

¶ That haldep questes or assise,
pat takep or 3cuep fee or hire,
Lette not lawe fro ri3t gyse,
Ne mayntene wrongis as master and sire.
how may be fewl for helle five

Dey may be ferd for helle fire,

To ete here ney3ebores at here mete.

But lyf shal not euere more dure;

ffor-by, wib god of pes 3e trete.

72

(10)

¶ 3e pat comep to goddis bord,
Resceyuep hym in clene lyf;
Holde non old synnes in hord,
ffor panne begynnep a newe stryf;
ffor he to god hap drawen his knyf,
pat penkep in skorne pere wolde hym ete.
Here be war, man and wyf,

Confess all your sins before the communion; otherwise you commit a sacrilege.

80

Horde no synne when 3e trete!

(11)

¶ Man, 3if bou haue tan a fal, Ryse vp, and no more slyde; O prest, by shrifte schewe it al

O prest, by shrifte schewe it al,
But hyde no synne in hord by syde.
In venyale synne longe to byde,
Makep dedly synnes to growe grete.
Wip 3 oure werkis 3 e mot chyde,

Wib god of pes when 3e trete.

84 Confess to one priest your mortal and venial sins;

(12)

¶ Seuene sypes on pe day,
Men seyn, the riztwis man dop falle.
panne he pat fallep in synnes alway,
How shulde he rekene po synnes alle?
But he wrot hem, grette and smalle,
Summe at shrifte he schulde forzete,
He shulde pe prest pe oftere calle,
Wip god of pes when ze trete.

92

96

- 88

don't forget

(13)

¶ ffoure acountes bou shalt 3elde:
God made be lyk to his ymage;
How bou it wan, how bou it helde,
How bou it spendid in wast outrage.
fforfete not heuene, byn heritage;
Among seyntes by soule sete.
Rekene ere bou renne in rerage,
And wib god of pes 3e trete.

nota

Don't forfeit your heritage in heaven.

104

(14)

God sends mischief to a kingdom where his law is not kept.

¶ Holy writ biddeb god sende vengeaunce To kyngdom bat nele not holde his lawe, Wrappe and stryf and alle greuaunce Among prynces and pore men brawe, 108 bat nele not leue goddis sawe Ne counte his gynnyng at o clete. To werkis of wysdom, by tyme 3e drawe.

112

124

128

(15)

And wip god of pes 3e trete.

Those who don't make amends for their sins are wanting in faith. ¶ Who so leued pat god were trewe, pan wolde bey do bat god hem bede. bat mende no mysse, but synne av newe, Hem lakkeb all be pointed of be crede. 116 Serue god for helle drede Lest by soule falle in chete; And loue god for heuene mede; Wib love and drede wib god as trete. 120

(16)

Though you take orders, you get no reward without charity.

¶ pouz pou take ordre or religeoun, Wib-oute charite bou seruest no mede. [leaf 107, back] Beue drynke to bursty, bat han and mown, Clobe be naked, and hungry fede. Vysite be pore and syk but nede, And giltles presoneres, loos ae lete, And burye be dede, is charite dede;

(17)

Wib bes werkis, wib god 3e trete.

Pay what you owe to your neigh-bour and to God, and receive heaven as your due.

¶ pere pou hast borwed, quyte py dette, And to by seruaunt pat reson is. Loke what degre god hap be sette; Quyte hym by dette, by soule is his, 132 And resceyue by dette, heuene blis; bere thar be nober swynke ne swete; And ordeyne be wele, and amende by mys. bus wib god of pes 3e trete. 136 (18)

¶ Caste be not to couetys, 3e þat ryztwys werryours be, But loke where rist querel lys; Chastise be rebell in charite. bere god is frend, his foomen fle; 3e thar not counte hem at o pete. God dob batavle, and not ae:

Warriors should not be covetons.

140 but chas but chastise charity. God helps his friends

144

152

(19)

¶ And 3e in batayle haue maystrie, And fortune serue, and god 30w spede, Thank god be victorie, And holde it not soure owen dede. Serue god in loue and drede. And be not proud of soure bysete.

fforthy, with god of pes 3e trete.

Thank God for victory,

it your own work.

(20)

After youre werkis, wayte aftur youre mede, And so wib god of pes 3e trete.

¶ 3if a clerk haue burgh hap Cure of soules or bischopriche, He hat not bischop, he hat a byshap; Make opere after his werkis like. To kepe his shep fro helle tike. In folde go, amonge hem blete; Saf and sounde brynge hem y-lyk, Bytwen god and hem to trete.

Bishops, like good shepherds,

should keep 156 their flocks from hell's tikes.

160

(21)

¶ Benefice of holychirche first was graunted, For prestis, holy lyf to lede; Dryue out synne, suffre non be haunted; Here non oper to do his dede. be werkman is worby his mede In felde, in toun, and in strete. Teche vnwys, helpe hem bat nede, Byfore god for hem to trete.

Priests ought to be models to the people;

164 they shouldn't hire others to do their work.

	(99)	
They promise to do their duty,	(22) ¶ In wordis pey sayn pey wil do wel, Take cure of soules as worthi clerkis,	
and wash sin- ful souls' shirts,	And resceyue pe charge euery del To wasche synful soules serkis.	172
but they are proved fools by their works.	pey preue hemself fooles in werkis; Wip holy water nele no parischen wete. Caste away Antecrist merkis,	
	Gop wip god of pes to trete.	176
	(23)	
	¶ Now sumwhat y haue 30w sayd What is salue to 30ure sore. [MS. store] To sau3ten wip god, holde 30w payed,	
Prepare to receive God in the sacra- ment.	And arraye 30w wel perfore To resceyue god, 30ure soules store, His body in forme of bred o whete, And kepe hym: so 3e nede no more	180
	Eft of pes wip hym to trete.	184
Repent, and do penance for your sins.	(24) ¶ Whan pou hast told al by greuaunce, pan do as pe prest pe tau;te; Holde wel by penaunce;	
[1 leaf 108]	Repentaunce, ¹ forzete pat nouzt. Whan ze wip loue god han lauzt, Neuere fro zow hym ze lete.	188
	God brynge 30w to his angels sau3t,	
	pere neuere nys nede o pes to trete.	192

A. I good sterying to henenward.

[Digby 102, leaf 108.]

[15 stanzas of 14, abab, abab, cc, ddd, c.]

4

Many people don't like to hear vices reproved,

(1)any man is lop to here Repref of vices and werkis ylle; For pride hem penkep goddis pere,

pat welde pis worldis wele at wylle; and will tell a At a sarmon wil bid a frere Make it short, or ellys be stylle.

friar to cut his sermon short, or be still.

X. A good Stirring Heavenwards.		41
Hym þat is loþ, good to lere, He shal, wheþer he wole or nylle. We fareþ as knaue þat takeþ his hyre byfore,	8	
Serue his mayster wel pe worse perfore. Richesse and hele makep men vnkynde, pat goddis seruyce is out of mynde; For graceles and gostly blynde pe flesch distroyep soules store.	12	Wealth makes men forget religion.
(2)		
¶ God seiþ, "Man, y made þe of nouzt, And put the into paradys, Of erþely þynges þat y wrouzt,	16	God says to man, "I placed thee in Paradise,
To neme pat neded to pyn eys. I lent pe fre wil and pouzt, Warnyng of foly to be wys; At pe tre of wysdom, foly pou souzt,	20	
And 3af for an appyl be most of prys. pe same moup pat pe appyl gnewe, In pat moup be holy croys grewe, Wheron y dyed for 3oure gylt; purgh be herte and burgh be mylt	24	which thou lost by sin.
I hadde pe poynt, and 3e pe hylt; 3oure heritage y boust 30w newe.	28	
(3)		
¶ 3e þou3te 3e had not ynow Euere lastyng lyf and euere more rest; 3e braken my byddyng, 3e benden a bow, 3e boten an appyl þat þirled my brest. Wiþ water, for synne þe world y slow, Saue seuene, and noe þat was my gest. My loue to man it was so tow,	32	I drownd all men save 7 and Noah.
Hit lasted forp and nolde not brest.	36	
For mannys loue I come fro blisse to pyne. Man was so pore, he had not to fyne. 3oure gyltes greued god so sare, 3oure gyltes on my bak y bare, pat god my fader nolde me not spare Tyl he had 3euen my lyf for pyne.	40	Since thou couldst pay no fine, I redeemed thee with my own life.

(4)

	(1)	
	¶ My puple, where greued y 30w or pyne?	
l led thee through the	But ladde 30w purgh pe see so rede	44
Red Sea,	With Aaron and moyses, myn owen hyne,	
and destroyed thy enemies,	And alle 3oure enemys y drowned to dede,	
vii, viioiii.	For 3e shuld kepe lawe myne.	
	In wildernes y made 3 oure stede,	48
	To 30w y planted myn owen vyne,	
and fed thee with angels'	And fourty 3eer fed 3ow wip angels brede.	
bread,	Wip loue I dede 30w my lawe to teche,	
	Bycom a man to be zoure soule leche.	52
	Wip a spere 3e shed myn herte blood.	
	be pore 3e harme, and do no good.	
	3eue I chastyse, 3e calle me wood;	
	And but 3e mende, y wol take wreche.	56
	(5)	
	¶ Man, hast bou oust in mynde,	
	be pyne y suffred wib be iewes felle?	
	3oure soules of derkenes to vnbynde,	
[1 lf. 108. bk.]	¹ I suffred deb, and heryed helle.	60
I suffered death for	Answere me, man! was y kynde?	
thee.	Mist y do more, canst bou me telle?	
	A beter frend, and pou can fynde,	
	Leue me, and go wip hym dwelle.	64
	I do be wele, why dost me woo?	
I am thy	I am by frend, bou art my foo.	
friend, thou art my foe.	pere y zeue pes, pou makest debate.	
	pere y loue, pou dost hate,	68
	And stekest me wipoute pe 3ate.	
	My worldys goodis bou holdest me fro.	

(6)

Or in syknes; pan calleb he me.

¶ Man, þou dost as a thef	
pat hat holycherche gre,	72
Whan men wold take hem wip repref,	
pat to chirche he wole fle.	
So dob man bat is in oref	

76

Thou callst me at need, like a thief who takes his refuge in a church.

X. A good Stirring Heavenwards.		43
And 3ut, man, bou art me so lef, Wib mercy and rupe y bowe to be.		Though I have mercy on thee,
3if y byd þe my lawe to fulfille, pou hauntest þy synne, and wonest þeryn stille. pou hatest all þat loue my name. pou wost þou seruest so gret blame: How darst þou byd me, for shame,	80	thou for- sakest me, and sinnest again.
To bowe to be or worche by wille?	84	
(7)		
¶ Man, pou to my lawert knyt; Why ho[1]ddest pou werre agaynes me, My worldis goodis in hord to pyt Fro pore pat py breperen be? Art pou not warned by holy writ? I made, and bou3te hem as dere as pe. Hit is wanhope gob byfore 3oure wit.	88	Thon heapest up riches, and oppressest the poor, whom I bought as dearly as you.
þat 3e hyde, ful bry3t y se.	92	
ffor he pyne y dede for 30w dry3e, 3eue hyn herte, wih teres of hyn ey3e. Repente sore for hy trespas! So ly3tly my3t hou come to gras, To heuene, to hat worhy plas, To by3e to he, on rode gan dy3e.	96	
(8)		
My wit word, wip by moup teche,	100	How darest thou say thy creed, since thy works belie thee,
In pyne bou sechest byn owen wreche.	104	in theft and adultery?
Thow temptest me to be wrappeful ay. I mad pe wys and fayre, angels pere, pou makest pe fool, and foul fendis fere. py ly3tnes pou spendest in harlotrye; py strengpe, in wrappe and tyrauntrye; py fayrenesse, in pryde and lecherye.	108	I made thee like an augel, thou makest thyself like a devil, and
	112	settest at nought what I bought so dear.

(9)

	· /	
Thou takest delight in	¶ To greue me, men þenke it game	
offending me, and in recom-	To breke be lawe bat y be bed;	
pensing evil for good.	In despyt, forswere name,	
ioi goodi	By woundis y had in handis and hed.	116
	I do pe worschipe, pou dost me shame;	
	I 3af þe lyf, þou 3af me ded,	
	Mirre and galle to drynke wip grame.	
	I zeue be my body in fourme of bred.	120
	3e fare wip me, as gest his yn dob borwe,	
[1 leaf 109]	Resceyue to-day, and put me out to 1 morwe.	
	Agayn to synne whan 3e go,	
	Shamely 3e put me 30w fro.	124
	And 3e desyre I be 3 oure foo,	
	3e gete but wreche and dowble sorwe.	
	, 0	
	(10)	
Some despise	¶ And 3e defoule my holy place,	
the divine service which	bat turneb be chirche out of his gyse.	128
1 ordered,	Holy chirche is spirytual grace;	
	be duwe dette, deuyne seruyse.	
and say I am	bey calle me as he bat no god was.	
not God.	pat cure of soules don despise,	132
	ffro hem y wole turne my face,	
	And calle hem as fooles out-casten fro wyse.	
Those who	pat sellen soules for temperal getyng,	
sell souls for worldly	bey maken skourges to here owe betyng;	136
riches, make scourges for	Here good dayes ben wastyng,	
themselves.	And bey, to helle hastyng	
	To be wip fendis chastyng,	
	fulfille on hem my thretyng.	140
	(11)	
My sword	¶ My swerd is fyre hat brynneh bry3t,	

my sword shall sever right from wrong. If My sword is fyre pat brynnep bry3t,
Shal shede be rist fro be wrong.

I brenne sheldis and swerdis in fyst;
As whirlewynd y skatre be fals brong.

No kyng shal be saued by his myst,
No be geaunt, be he nonere so strong.

A. A your Surring Heavenwards.		10
 pat y am god, 3e shal knowe ry3t; Nes non bot I, endeles long. 3e may not serue two lordis to plese, ffede fatte shep in greceles lese. 	148	Thou shalt know that I am God.
pat plesen me, 3e holde hem nys; pat gylep pe world, 3e holde hem wys. 3e may not wynne, wip 3oure delys, Here and in heuene bope, 3oure ese.	152	Thou scornest my friends, and thinkest those wise who deceive the world.
(12)		
¶ In this world, to folk ful fele		
Goddis wordis þis myat be:	156	Thou didst
Man, bou serued me not in bi wele;		not love me in thy happi-
Why shulde y knowe pi pouerte?		in thy happi- ness; why should I help thee in thy
pou loued me not in \$i\$ hele;		distress ?
In syknes why shulde y rewe be?	160	
Fro my comaundement bou dede stele:		
Of hem bou serued, fong by fee!		
3et, o god, be fader of blysse,		
be holy gost salueb soule syknesse.	164	
pouz we agylte pe godhed,		
Mercy moueb be manhed,		
ffor loue of his brepered, 3eue mercy to mekenesse!	168	
your mercy to meannesso:	100	
(13)		
¶ 3if man ligge long in synne,		The longer man lives
And wilfully fleep fro grace,		in sin,
To sharpe my wreche y wole bygynne,		the more vengeance I
Take vengeaunce for his trespas.	172	shall take on him.
His enemys, I wole leten hem ynne,		
As bestes in forestes, 30w to chas. For drede 3e shal nowhere wynne,		
But fynde my wrappe byfore here face.	176	
I saued moyses in pe rede see,	170	
Ionas in whales wombe dayes pre;		If thou keep
pre children in pe fyre so rede.		my law, I shall save
Dauyd slow golyas to dede.	180	saved, Moses,
Do 3e þe lawe þat y hem bede,		Jonah, the 3 Children, and David.
And 3e shal haue pe same degre.		mind David.

X. A Stirring Heavenwards. XI. God & Man at One. 46

(14)¶ Man, I can do be erbe to shake, Wib flood and drowtes distroye zoure wele. I chastise erbe; 3e sample take:

184

188

192

196

200

204

208

Easter. 1412]

I may sle, zeue lyf and hele, ffyre and thouder fro heuene make;

Nes non fro my strokes may stele.

At domesday do 20w alle quake On doomsday

all men shall be judged according to their works.

[if. 109, bk.]

I can destroy everything.

> Whan zoure owen werkis wole zow apele; panne knaue, beggere, pore brobelyng,

May apere wib pape and wib kyng. bere shal non reuerence haue,

Ne mercy, bous bey wolde craue. Here dedis shal hem deme, or saue.

pan alle to me shal zelde rekenyng.

(15)

All worldly treasures are mine;

¶ Man, be worldis good is myn;

How bou it spende, tak good hede. Hit is myn, and not byn,

No more pan pou hast of nede; Not to fostre be as a swyn,

thou shouldst not revel

by foule flesche in fylbe to fede.

while the poor die of hunger,

but let them partake of what I sent

And leue be pore in hunger and pyn, And fynde hem nober foode ne wede.

And pore folk on by defaute dyae, Wib dines in pyne bou shalt lyze;

ffor bou shuld zeue, god dede be sende. Tak kep how bou it spende;

ffor pat leuep be byhende,

bow mon rekene, or be abyze.

XI. God & man ben made atte on. [Digby 102, leaf 109, back.]

(15 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.)

Praise God! he has avenged us on our enemies.

Glade in god, bis solempne fest,

Now Alleluya is vnloken. benkeb how god, lest and mest,

On oure enemys hab vs wroken,

Let body and soule to-gydre be sauste,

Kepe god ¹ wip-yn 30ure ynnere 3ate. [1 leaf 110]

Let body and soul be at one.

Al. God and Man made at One. Eas	ster 14	12. 47
pat hadde vs in cheynes stoken,Wrappid in synnes many on.pe fendis are flowen, pe cheynes are broken,		
And god and man are wel at on.	8	and God and man are at one.
(2)		
I ffirst whan god wip man was wrop,		
pat Adam forfeted for his vys,		When Adam
Man to angels was so lob,		had sinned,
bey dreuen hym out of paradys.	12	
To amende here foly, god so wys,		
Wip fals iewes let hym slon;		
Here raunsom was his blod o prys;		God ransom-
So was god and man at on.	16	ed him with
(3)		at one.
¶ And 3it a ferly more byfelle,		
pat god dede purgh his grete my3t:		
be soules he loued, he fet fro helle		When Chairt
To paradys among his angels bry3t.	20	When Christ took the holy souls from
Hem pouzte pat was a wonder syzt,	20	Heil to Heaven.
Among here frendes, brynge here foon.		Aleuven,
Al on wrong, god made rigt:		
So made god angels and man at on.	0.4	
(4)	24	angels and man were at one.
The pridde sawstenyng mowe 3e proue.		
When posteles stryuen for hize degre,		Jesus taught
God spak to hem a word of loue,		his apostles to be humble
And seyde, "pes wip 30w be!	28	and practise charity,
Elles 3e may not folwe me,		
But 3e will in my gates gon."		
So god bond man in charite,		
Byddis man and man be wel at on.		and so were man and man
(5)		at one.
The ferbe sawatenyng, god vs tauate,		
pat best may kepe eche in state.		
Let hody and couls to 1		

48	XI. God and Man made at One. Easter	1419
	For who so loue pere god dop hate,	1112,
	Is berself to his owen flou.	
	We ben vnkynde, wiþ god debate,	
	for euere he profrep to ben at on.	40
	nor each no proffer to ben at on.	**
	(6)	
	¶ The fyfte saw3tnyng, synne refuse.	
	Let eche man haue pat shulde ben his.	
If you repent your sins,	On mannys syde, repentaunce dop rise,	
God will have mercy on	And on goddis syde, mercy is;	44
you.	pay tretep of pynes and of blis.	
	Repentaunce makeb wepyng mon.	
	When repentaunce and mercy kys,	
	pan is god and man at on.	48
	(7)	
	Thow made not by self; god dede be make,	
	Put soule of resoun in flesche so frele.	
	God can leue, god can take,	
	Richesse, strengt, fayrnesse, and hele.	52
God can	He is victorye in batayles fele,	
destroy everything;	Can sle soule, blod, and bon.	
nobody can	Nes non fro his strokes may stele.	
escape his blows.	Glade in god, 3e ben at on.	56
		00
	(8)	
	¶ God 3af erþe to mankynde,	
God promised	And heuene to hem pat wole be wys,	
Heaven to the wise, and	pat holden his lawe, haue hym in mynde;	
Hell to fools.	And helle to hem pat wole be nys.	60
	In oure fre wille, be choys it lys,	
	Heuene, or helle, to have that on.	
	In heuene, and 3e wole haue delys,	
	Let body and soule be wel at on.	64
	(9)	
God may say, "Men	¶ God may say, fern 3ere, folk were fayn	
expensed me	To resceyue me ymydde here brest;	
from my palace, and	On morwe bey put me out agayn;	
palace, and gave it to my enemies."	In my palays bey made be fendis nest.	68

To lityl whyle y was here gest.

My loue y loste, y make my mon.

Let god now lengere wip 30w rest,

Now god and man is wel at on.

72

76

(10)

¶ Folk þat were fendis fere,
Sulpid in synne derk as ny3t,
Now are þey fayre angels pere,
As shynyng sune in goddis sy3t.
3e haue resceyued 3oure god of my3t,
Ayþer in oþer, 3oure wille is on.
3oure hertys were heuy, þey may be l

You were as black as devils, God has made you as fair as angels,

3oure hertys were heuy, bey may be list;
Glade in god, se ben at on.

(11)

¶ Man, and 3e holde my lawe,
Alf þyn enemys shal þe drede;
And þou stonde of me non awe,
þyn enemys outeray þe in dede.
For þere as I my frendis lede,
þey shul not sporne at stok ne ston.
In alf here werkis þey shal wel spede,
3if god and man be wel at on.

Man, if thou keepest my law, I shall destroy thy enemies.

88

92

84

(12)

¶ Myn enemys, y shal reue here syst,
3eue syknes and drede, pouert and wo;
My frendis, y seue syst and myst,
Richesse, strenge ouer here foo;
Hem thar not drede, where bey go,
Here wele and worschip, in euery won.

I shall ruin my foes, and reward my friends.

Sip 3e be syker, kepe 3ow so.

Now god and 3e are 1 wel at on.

96 [1 lf. 110, bk.]

(13)

¶ Man, y aske no pyng of pyn. For loue, my loued in helle y sou3t. 3eue me py loue, py soule is myn; Or 3eue it hym pat it² derrere bou3t. POEMS (OXF.). Give me thylove,

100 [2 MS. hab it]

50 XI. God & Man at One. XII. God keep our King & Crown!

Suffre pyne for be, me nedid noust, In hed, in hand, in foot, ne ton. I died for 3 oure gyltis v bare in herte and bouzt. thee I made my fadir and sow at on. 104 (14)¶ Sum of my kyndenes, 3e myste me quyte. Do bre wordis of my comandement: Don't dis-My name, my pyle take not in despite; grace my name Rule wel by selue in good atent. 108 Control thyself. Thow nost how sone be after sent, To zelde rekenvng of goddis lon. The rolles of rerage be fend is han brent. ffor god and man is wel at on. 112 (15)I And bou me loued, bou wolde me leue, And do my lawe, and holde it trewe. Thou canst How mystest bou me more repreue not affront me more pan leue my lawe, and tak[e] newe? 116 than by leaving my by vyces wole make by soule to rewe: law and taking a new In derkenes neuere sonne shon: one. Vertues shyne bryat of hewe. Holde goddis lawe, ze ben at on. 120

XII. God saue the kyng, and kepe the croun.

[Easter, 1413.]
[Digby 102, leaf 110, back.]
[19 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

I lade in god, call hom youre herte,
In ioye and blisse youre merbe encres,
And kepe goddis lawe in querte;
pes holy tyme, lete sorwe ases.
Among oure self, god sende vs pes!
perto eche man be boun:

Lord, send us peace! Let everyhody counteract fools' designs, and stand up for the king.

To letten fooles of here res,
Stonde wip be kyng, mayntene be croun.

(2)

¶ What dop a kynges crowne signyfye,
Whan stones and floures on sercle is bent?

Lordis, comouns, and clergye
To ben all at¹ on assent. 12
To kepe pat crowne, take good tent,
In wode, in feld, in dale, and downe.
pe leste lyge-man, wip body and rent,
He is a parcel of pe crowne. 16

The stones and flowers set round a king's classes should join in defending it.

(3)

¶ What signyfyeb be stones aboute?
Richesse, strengbe, and gret bounte;
Oure townes and castels, be reme wib-oute,
bey are oure stones of gret pouste.
In pes bey kepe all bis contre,
Holynes, contemplacioun.
God, let hem neuer skaterid be,
And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne!

The stones signify riches and strength,

our towns and castles abroad.

24

32

(4)

¶ By-3 onde pe see, and we had nouzt,
But all oure enemys so neyze vs were,
pouz all here gold were hider brouzt,
I wolde set hit at lytel store.
Oure enemys wolde coke perfore
Wip ordynaunce and habergeoun,
Wynne pat, and wel more:
Oure landes, oure lyues, pe reme, pe crowne.

All the treasures of our enemies could not outweigh our possessions beyond the sea.

(5)

¶ 3if we among oure self debate,
pan endep floure of chyualrie.
Alle opere londis pat dop vs hate,
Oure feblenes wole aspye;
On euery syde pey ²wole in hye,
pe stalworpe cast pe feble adoun.
3if pey wip my3t haue maystrye,
ffro pe ri3t heire wolde take pe crowne.
¹ at is added by another hand.

If we quarrel,

36 will overcome us,

and take the

40 crown from the lawful heir.

1	,	,	
1	ŧ	١	ı

	(6)	
If the crown	¶ 3if sercle, and floures, and riche stones,	
were broken, and the	Were eche a pece fro oper flet;	
stones and flowers scat- tered, it	Were pe crowne broken ones,	
would be difficult to	Hit were ful hard agen to knet.	44
unite them	Auyse 30w er 3e suffre þat fit;	
	Amende, 3e pat mende mown!	
	3e pat ben wysest, cast 3oure wyt;	
	Stonde wip be kyng to kepe be crowne.	48
	(7)	
Don't suffer	¶ To kepe be crowne, god graunte 30w grace,	
the crown to be broken.	And let it neuere be to-broken;	
No harm is	For word of wynd lityl trespase;	
lone though	Non harm nys don, pou; word be spoken.	52
spoken.	Let wysdom be vnloken,	
	Apert and preuyly to rowne.	
	For non euyl wille no man be wroken,	
	But stonde wip rist, mayntene pe crowne.	56
	(8)	
	¶ A man my3te be forborn	
	Fer fro a kynges place,	
Whoever per-	Wolde make a kyng to be forsworn	
cing to im- oede the law,	To lette be lawe, it most not passe,	60
ede the law,	And make hym wene pat he grace,	
	And holy in condicioun,	
	And mayntene hym in his trespace,	
rom his rown.	While he pykep pe stones out of pe crowne.	64
	(9)	
kingdom	¶ A kyngdom must be gouerned by rist.	

must be governed with justice.

To chastyse false bat ar aspyed. Falsed and troupe to-gydre wole figt, Til oon bat ober hab distroyd; 68 Til troupe be fro treson tryed, Shal neuere be pes in regyon.

In all kyngdomes bat man hab gyed, To be place of vertues, god geueb be crowne.

72

God gives the crown to virtue.

(10)

¶ Thou; falsed troube defame, veritas Truth always fights against Troube secheb non hernes to shewe his speche; Falsehood. Troube, of his craft benkeb no shame; He is bold, alle folk his craft to teche: 76 And euere by troube stondes wreche, For wreche is goddis champioun. and Revenge helps to Or wreche smyte, god be leche, ruin him. And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne. 80

(11)

Caste before how it wole ende,
Gostly, bodyly, what mowe 3e wynne.
Eche man destroy3e his best frend:
So dede Flaundres; how dede it wende?
Of noblay bey han lore be sown;
Pray we god his bowe of wrabbe vnbende,

¶ Loke of pyng pat 3e bygynne,

84 Lord, guard us from such treachery as has been committed in Flanders!

(12)

And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne.

¶ God 3eueh his doom to alle kynges hat be;
As a god, in erhe a kyng hah my3t.

Holy writ byd, blissed be he
In alle tymes hat demeh ry3t.

Men do in derk, god seeh in ly3t.

Synne, morhere, derne tresoun,

Not may be hyd fro goddis sy3t.

To ry3twys Iuge, god 3eueh he crowne.

God gives the king the power of punishing all crimes.

92

96

(13)

¶ That 'lord loue' lityl hym selue,
pat 3eue' his blisse for sorwe and woo,
For pe loue of ten or twelue,
Make alle folk his foo,
And lese pe loue of god also,
For fawte of perfeccyone.
pou3 he had no vauntage but of po,
He my3te were a symple crowne.

A lord is not wise if he loses the love of all the people,

100 [11f. 111, bk.]

and of God, to please a few persons.

(14)

Every king acts in the place of God;	¶ Eche a kyng hap goddis power, Of lyf and leme to saue and spille.	
he must not act by his	He muste make god his partener,	
own will.	And do not his owen wille.	108
	For god resceyue eche pore mannys bille,	
	And of here playnt, god here be sowne.	
	Sette 3 oure in euene skille,	
	Counseile be kyng to kepe be crowne.	112
	(15)	
A father beats his	¶ The fadir, pe wanton child wole kenne,	
wanton child;	Chastyse wip zerde, and bete hit sore.	
if it im- proves, he	So after, þe fadyr þe 3erde wole brenne,	
burns the	When child is wys, and takep to lore.	116
We have been God's	We han ben goddis 3erde 3ore,	
rod, of which many a twig	Chastysed kyngdom, castell, and towne.	
has been lost in chas-	Twyggis of oure 3erde we have forlore.	
tising the kingdom.	God saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne!	120
	(16)	
The renown of the Eng-	¶ Englische men dede maystry3es make;	
lish has spread all	burgh all be world, here word it sprong.	
over the world;	Cristen and hepen bey mad to quake,	
world,	Tok and slowen kynges strong.	124
	God let neuere werre be vs among,	
may we never lose it!	To lese pat blo of gret renowne,	
never lose is:	Ne neuere oure rist be turned to wrong.	
	God saue þe kyng, and kepe þe crowne!	128
	(17)	
By civil wars	¶ Among oure self, 3if fi3t be raysed,	
we ruin ourselves.	pan stroye we oure awen nest.	
	pat hap victor, wole be euel payed,	
	So many good men ben lest.	132
[1 MS. berst]	3it is beter bowe pan brest.1	
	Eche man is bounden to resoun.	
	3e þat ben wysest, take þe best;	
	Conseile be kyng, mayntene be crowne!	136

XII. God save the King! XIII. Deed is working. A.D. 1414. 55

(18)

¶ A comons my3t sone be shent, Wip-outen kyng or gouernour, And a kyng wipoute rent My3t li3tly trussen his tresour,

Myst listly trussen his tresour,
For comons mayntene lordis honour,

Holy chirche, and religyoun, For comouns is be fayrest flour bat euere god sette on erbely crown.

(19)

¶ God, lete pis kyngdom neuere be lorn Among oure self, in no distance! Oper kyngdomes lau;he vs not to skorn, And sey, for synne god send vengeance. God, 3eue vs space of repe[n]tance,

Good lyf, and deuocioun;
And god, kepe in by gouernance

and god, kepe in by gouernance Oure comely kyng, and saue be crowne! The king and the commons depend on each other.

140

The Commons are the fairest flower of the Crown.

> Lord, let this kingdom never be spoiled by our own fault.

148

but keep our king, Henry V, and save the crown.

XIII. Dede is worchung.

[Digby 102, leaf 111, back.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(Part I. 1)

hanne alle a kyngdom gadrid ysse
In goddis lawe, by on assent,
For to amende pat was mysse,
perfore is ordayned a parlement.
Troupe wip glad chere peder went,
And falsed stondis ay in drede
For ferd of rystwis ingement,
ffor to be demed after his dede.

(2)

¶ In doom of parlement ofte is fauour, pat afterward it harmep grete;
Make opere bold take perof sauour
To mayntene falsed for besete.

4 [leaf 112]

In a parliament, only truth should be heard.

8

But often falsehood is maintained for profit's sake.

56	XIII. Deed is working. A.D. 1414.	PART I	•
	Sloupe vn-tyme eft mon swete When it is hot, and glowep as glede.		
	Stonde wip troupe, and smyte an hete,		
	pat god ponke 30w for 30ure dede.		16
	(3)		
The laws require capital	¶ Lawe 3eueb kyng lyf and leme;		
punishment for murder	To hasty slau ₃ t, and sodeyn fed,		
and treason.	Lawe 3euep no grace to heme; Morbere, ne treson, ne forcast ded,		20
	To zeue pere mercy, god forbed;		20
	pat fauour myst destroye a pede.		
	God in his lawe 3af moyses red,		
	Wip-oute he dampnep pe dede.		24
	(4)		
Law is in- violable in	\P In alle kyngdomes, here lawe is wryten;		
all countries:	For mede ne drede, pey chaunge it noust	·	
in England only is it bought and	In Engeland, as all men wyten,		00
sold like a beast.	Lawe, as best, is solde and bougt. Eche geer newe lawe is wrougt,		28
	And clope falsed in troupe wede.		
	Fern 3er was lawe; now nes it nou3t.		
	We ben newe fangyl, vnstable in dede	ė.	32
	(5)		
To stand up for the com-	¶ To stonde wip comons in here ry3t,		
mons is the	Is hy3est poynt of charite.		
charity, which God	To quyte pat dede, no man myst,		
alone can reward.	Saue onely god in trynyte.		36
	bous be comons vnkonnyng be,		
	God zeuep zow neuere pe lasse mede. pat mede askep so heyz degre,		
	Nes non bot god may quyte pat dede.		40
	(6)		
	¶ 3et o wysdom mot 3e lere,		
Hear the	Most profyt, and heyest honour;		
complaints of your ten- ants, for they	3 oure tenauntes playntes 3e mot here,		
keep your possessions.	ffor pey kepen all 3 oure tresour.		44

3e are holden to ben here socour.

Non wip wrong oper mysbede:
For-py god made 30w gouernour,
In goddis ry3t to deme pe dede.

48

(7)

¶ Lordis pat han castels and toures,
Alle folk stonden of 30w awe.

pe puple is goddis, and no3t 30ures.

pey paye 30ure rente, to gouerne lawe.
Let no man here ry3t wipdrawe,
Body ne catell hem mysbede.

Who dop so, god sayp in sawe,
He shal haue heuene for pat dede.

Lords, the commons hold you in esteem,

52 and pay you rent; therefore, you ought to protect them.

(8)

¶ pe lord pat wole haue good loos,
Stonde fast in troupe, waxe not faynt.

Let troupe gon out of cloos,
pat alle folk may here his playnt.

Let treson be shamely ataynt,
Graunte hem no mercy, ne take no mede;
For mede wip poyson sotyly is maynt;
Mercy my3t cherische hem in here dede.

64

(9)

¶ 3if a man wolde þe ouertylt,
Caste þy deþ for to kille,
Let not a-noþer by3e his gylt,
þat ¹neuere in dede dede þe ylle.
Dampne no man for non euyl wille
To do þe gylteles blod to blede.
Sette 3oure domes in euene skille;
In drede of god, 3e deme 3oure dede.

68 Don't make the guiltless suffer for the guilty.
[1 If. 112, bk.]

(10)

¶ Who skorneb hem pat telleb hem wit, Is rebell to god, bat repreueb reson; bat loueb hym most, bat hateb hit, Azenst goddis counseill cast a-cheson; Who scorns the wise, and cherishes fools, rebels against God.

76

58 XII	I. Deed is working.	A.D. 1414.	Parts I	. & II.
	To worschipe hym p For fawte of grace To chastyse fooles is To worschip or sh	, vertue ben g ay in seson,	gyde.	80
		(11)		
God will send Vengeance with Truth to ruin False- hood.	¶ Syngulerte is sotyle pey calle hit custom Whan troupe wole reh pan god wil vengea Shamely falsed to s Drede and stryf	n, troupe to bluerce pat efte, nce wip troup hende, among hem sl	e sende,	84
	To preue who is go Comons be witne	ddis frend, esse of here de	ede.	88
Banish wicked people from the court.	¶ Putte fro court, pat pat place of vertuee Nedeles delys, and no pe wastours out of Wip wit and vyser Lete werk be wi	s wolde shend edeles gys, worschip sper nent aH amen	e. nde. de.	92
your works that you know your creed.	Wip corage and ha In goddis quere	rdynes 30ure	reme de f en	de, 96
A truthful man never hides his works;	¶ A trewe man recch poug aH pe world And falsed, for he do	his werkis asp	eH oy 3 ed ;	
the false con- spire against truth.	He wolde troupes For he shulde not perfore pe fals ;	tonge were ty telle who hyn e false fede,	n ny 3 ed.	100
	Til troupe in preso And dampne tr	on be faste aly oupe for false	73ede, 1 dede.	104

(Part II. 14)

108

When you have made peace at home, strengthen your marches to keep the

sea.

¶ Whanne 3e han made pes wip-ynne, AH 30ure reme in vnyte, Vttere-more 3e mot bygynne;

Strenghe 3oure marche, and kepe he see.

Ofte haue 3e made 3oure fomen fle, Ramamhar your former Here hatest blod o brod to sprede. valour God dob batayle, and not 3e; bous se faust, god dob be dede. 112 (Part II. 15) King Edward made war ou I To ffraunce, kyng Edward had queryle. Hit was his kynde heritage: France to reclaim his lawful heri-And ze han be same style, tage, to which you have the same Wib armes of be selue parage; title. And zit zoure querell dede neuere aswage: pat god hab shewed in zoure manhede: On see, on land, in eche vyage, In dent of swerd, god demed soure dede. 120 (Part II. 16) ¶ Stuffe 3oure castels in eche coost, Fortify your castles; Warnestor and folk beder sende; So mow 3e abate 3oure enemys bost, But not in trete, in wast to spende. 124 don't waste your time by Wheper ze assayle or defende, treating: On see or land, god 20w spede! Wib word of wynd, mad neuere 1 werre ende, no war is ended by 128 words, but by the sword. But dent of swerd endid be dede. [1 leaf 113] (Part II. 17) ¶ And 3e penke werre to holde, Do after hem [bat] is most wys. Corage of 3ong, and wit of olde, The courage of the young, Can telle where be vauntage lys. perience of the old, will help to gain In dede of armes wonnen prys. Whan gloser and flaterer on tapetis trede, the victory. For wynnyng bev counseled to cowardys. Man wan neuere worschip by here dede. 136 (Part II. 18) ¶ Als ofte as 3e trete, By treaties vour enemies 3oure enemys, ordynaunce bey diat. get profit, whereas you While 3e trete, ay bey gete. lose your right. 3e trete youre self out of youre rist; 140 bere lakkeb conscience of knv2t.

Lete falsed growe tyl he sede.

Ordre of knyat was mad to fyat, nota Milicia In goddis rist, to ende be dede. 144 &c. (Part II. 19) ¶ Ordre of kny3t hardest is The order of knights sur-On see, on lond, on sholde, and depe: passes those of monks, He passeb relegous ywis, 148 bouz bey preve and faste wepe. in spite of their prayers: Ofte wib ful wombe relegous slepe, Whan knyates han hunger, and moche in drede. be beter in clene lyf bey augt hem kepe, they ought to prove themselves God's As goddis knyat to don here dede. 152 knights by a clean life. (Part II. 20) ¶ On of two, 3e mot chese: On lond or see or shippes bord. Wib figt ge wynne, wib trete ge lese. 156 3oure enemys han bat eure in hord, Your enemies win by words, bat bey wynne wib word 3 oure townes and castels in lengte and brede: And pat 3e wynne, 3e wynne wib sword. you can win by your 160 swords only. berfore wib swerd do soure dede. (Part II. 21) ¶ God zene zow grace his reme to zeme, To cherische be goode, and chastyse be nys. And also serue god to queme, 164 pat zoure werkis preue zow wys. Let your works prove And in 30w be helpe it lys, you wise. be puple in goddis lawe to hede.

XIV. Man, be warre er the be woo. [Early in 1418.]

168

Amen !1

[Digby 102, leaf 113.] [14 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

The higher the rank of a man, the greater is his The herrere degre, pe more wys;
pe gretter worschip, pe noblere fame;

Do so now, 3e wynne 3ow prys
And heuene blisse for 3oure dede.

¹ Amcn is struck through in red ink; but whether it is meant to be erased or not, is doubtful.

111. Main, Deathre, ere there be in be. A.D.	1110.	01
 be herrere degre, be more nys; be gretter foly, be more blame. After foly, folweb be shame; Repreued of frendis, and scorned of fo, After by dede, ressayue by name. Eche man be war, er hym be wo. 	4 8	honour or his disgrace.
(2)		
¶ 3if pou be kyngis chaunceller, Kepe þe crowne hool in stat; 3if þou be kyngis counselere,		Do your duty at court con- scientiously.
Loke no stones perof abate.	12	
3if oper wolde make pe kyng pe hate, Or falsed ouer troupe go, Tak py leue, and kisse pe 3ate.		If others calumniate you, ask your discharge.
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	16	
(3) ¶ On a mowntayne, a sete may not be hyd, Ne lordis werkis in no degre. A lordis werkis, wip comouns is kyd, pat he dop most in preuete. Gouernour of kyngdom or Cyte, After pey lyue, men deme so. For eche a werk, god ¹3euep a fe. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	20 24	A lord's works cannot be concealed; the commons will soon know them. [1 If. 113, bk.]
(4) ¶ A symple prest wole synge his masse While his lyuyng is but smal. As summe encrese, serue god þe lasse, Wiþ benefices, ten my3te lyue wiþ-al, And fynde þere noþer houshold ne halle, Ne serue þe parische, but take hem fro. Er god suche rekenyng calle, Be tyme be war, er þey be wo.	28	Poor priests serve God; as soon as they get benefices, they become careless.
(5)		
¶ Man, do resoun pouz pou be riche, Ouer cite or town hast gouernaunce. Loue al crafty folk yliche,		Be impartial,
Mayntene no party in distaunce.	36	

	Sette mendis for trespas in euene balaunce; For a penyworth of harm, tak not two. Rule wel mesure and sustenaunce. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	40
nota The wise man forbade his son to be a king's counsellor, as he might get hanged.	(6) ¶ be wyseman his sone forbed Masouncraft and all clymbyng, And shipman craft, for perile of dede, And preuey in counseil be ney3 no kyng. For his mys-rulyng bou my3t hyng, bat shep my3te grese vnder by to. To flige to hy3e, treste not by wyng. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	44
Don't ask too much of your king.	(7) ¶ pous by kyng be fre to 3yue, Be pou not gredy to craue,	
Poor people must pay for your profit.	Make opere folk pe worse to lyue, For synguler profyt pou wolde haue. Er drede and répref py berd shaue, Asese of Couetys, and say hoo. The man pat wole his worship saue, Be tyme be war, er him be woo.	52 56
D	(8) ¶ For to amende pat was mys, perfore is ordeyned eche Iustice.	
Do every man justice.	Lat eche man haue pat shulde ben his, And turne not lawe for couetyse. Ne contryue tresons pere troup lys, In tyrauntrie to robbe and slo. Er 30ure werkis preue 30w nys, Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	60
Give every- body his due.	(9) ¶ 3if 3e wole haue pes of 3 ong and old,	
	Euene mesure, mett, and wyst.	68

Vnkyndely synne, and tyrauntes lyf; And holy chirche rebell to goddis sawe. To kepe his comaundement, bey say no. Fro pat kyngdom, god his loue wil drawe. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

God will withdraw his 96 love from our land.

(13)

¶ 3if eny folk forgeb gyles, Wip falsed by deb to cast, Pulle vp be stakes, and breke be styles; Lete hem no more styke so faste.

If anybody attempt upon your life, try to escape and stand upon your guard.

64	XV. The Description of Man's Limbs.	
Keep clear of Death's dart.	And whan 3e be pe perile paste, Kepe 3ow wel fro depes flo, Fro costage, and be no more agaste. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	104
	(14)	
The friends of the flesh, misused, ruin the soul.	¶ pe flesch hap many frele frendis, Richesse, strengpe, fayrenesse, and hele; Whan it is mysvsed, pe soule it schendis.	
	Richesse, rauenere of worldis wele, Take fro pe nedy, to pe nedeles dele, And wylde recheles as a roo.	108
Watch, that your sins don't spoil your soul.	Er 30ure synnes 30ure soules apele, Eche man be war, er hym be woo.	112
	XV. The descryuping of mannes men [Digby 102, leaf 114.] [19 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]	rbres.
	(1)	
The body of	Where-of is mad all mankynde? Of seuene bynges, and it be soust: Erbe and water, fyre and wynde,	
man is composed of the four elements; his soul, of life, feeling, and thought.	perof is pe body wrouzt; pe soule of pre, pat hap be mynde, Of lyf, felyng, and of pouzt.	4
and thought.	pe soule fro pe body vnbende, Whan on of pese lakkep oust.	8
	(2)	
I compare man's head with a king;	¶ The heued, y likne to a kyng, For he is lord souereyn of al, Hap foure to his gouernyng:	
	may foure to mis godernying:	10

Moup and nose, and eyen wip-al,

Eryn fayre to his heryng, To serue be brayn is pryncypal Chef of counseil ymagenyng,

To caste before, er after fal.

12

16

(3)

¶ I lykne pe nekke, moche of myzt,
pat body and heued to-gydre knyt,
To a Iustice pat demep ryzt;
For, purgh it, comep aH wordis of wyt.
zif a man take ordre of knyzt.

to a just judge;

his neck.

be coler in be nekke het;

And feloun forfete in befte or fyst,

24

pe iugement in pe nekke set.

(4)

¶ Now I lykne mannys brest,
To presthod in good degre,
Most in perile, lest in rest
For besynesse in spiritualte;
In penaunce and in preyer prest;
Make of priviting property

his breast, to a good priest

Meke of spirit in pouerte

Holde hospytal to goddis gest,

And fede be pore in charyte.

[leaf 114, bk.]

32

28

(5)

¶ pe shuldres and pe bakebon,
I likne to lordis of pe lond;
pe armes, to kny3tes, to fende fro fon;
pe squyers, I likne to pe hondes;
pe fyngres, to 3emen pat byfore gon
Wip bent bowes and bry3t brondes.
While all pys lymes arn wel at on,
pe body, in good plyt it stondes.

his shoulders and backbone, to lords; his arms, to knights;

his fingers, to veomen:

40

(6)

¶ Mannys rybbes, y likne now—
Flesch and skyn in body hydes,—
To men of lawe is to alow,
pat kepes in loue bope sydes.
Rybbes, to resoun pouz pey bow,
So lawe dop: ofte in fanour bydes,
Tyl ground be souzt pere lawe dop grow,
Ende in charite, pat no man chydes.
POEMS (OXF.).

his ribs, to men of law:

48

	(7)	
his thighs, to	¶ I likne be thies, flesch and bon,	
merchants;	pat beren be body quantite,	
	To marchaundes, in perile ride and gon,	
	Bryngen wynnyng, gold, and fee,	52
	Make hize houses of lym and ston,	
	Mayntene burgh, toun, and cyte,	
	Welpe and worschip in here won,	
	And good houshold of gret plente.	56
	(8)	
his legs, to	¶ Mannys leggis, likne y may	
handicrafts- men;	To all craftes pat worche wip handes,	
	For al be body beren bay,	
	As a tre pat berep wandes.	60
his feet, to	be feet, to lykne, y wole assay,	
ploughmen;	To alle trewe tylyers of landes,	
	pe plough, and all pat dygge in clay;	
	Alle be world on hem standes.	64
	(9)	
his toes, to	¶ The toes of be mennys feet,	
faithful servants.	po y likne to trewe hyne	
	pat trauayle bobe in drye and weet,	
	In burst, in hungere, and in pyne,	68
	In het, in cold, in snow and slet,	
	Many hize none, er pey dyne,	
	And wip good mete selde met;	=0
	But after howsel pey drynke no wyn.	72
	(10)	
A man with-	¶ Toes helpep man fro fal to ryse.	
out toes can- not rise or	He may not stonde, þat haþ no toon,	
stand;	Lepe ne renne, ne ryde in syse,	
	Wrastle ne fy3te, ne put þe ston.	76
master and	3if seruant pe maystere refuse,	
servant depend on each other.	be seruant lyuyng sone were gon.	
each other.	And maystres, bou; bey ben wyse,	0.0
	Wip-out seruant lyue not alon.	80

(11)

¶ I likne þe wombe, and þat wiþ-ynne, To botemeles purs, þat moche doþ take; I liken the womb to a bottomless purse.

To couetous, no wyket pynne;

To glotoun, be garner wyd open make.

84
The womb

be wombe preyed be moup to blynne: "bou etest and drynkest, but y ake."

"To slepe," quod be eyze, "we may not wynne

asked the mouth to leave off eating,

be wrecched wombe so dob vs wake."

(12)

¶ "We dulle of heryng," quod þe ere.

and so did the limbs.

"We dase for dronken," quod be eyze:

"I wende but o mone pere were, And me bouzte two y sevze."

92

Quod pe handis, "fro moup may we not vs were."

Quod 1 pe moup, "y drank while y myste drye."

[1 leaf 115]

"Allas," quod be feet, "all we bere,
And goure bargayn dere abye."

96

(13)

¶ The handes and feet, be moup gan preye, "Let vs thre dayes reste,

They begged him to rest three days,

Wip alle pyn opere lymes pleye,

Wib felaschip, frend, and geste."

100

pe moup, in anger he dede saye, "pes pre dayes do 3our best.

with which the mouth complied.

Al pat tyme, nyst ne daye,

No mete ne drynk come in my brest."

104

(14)

¶ Thre dayes the moup dede faste,
Tyl wombe calde pe moup vnkynde.

After that time, they called him unkind, and asked him to

"Vnkynde² thyn handes, are þey faste? [* :for Vnbynde]
Stere, and lete þe mylle grynde."

108

108 eat again.

Quod be eren, "oure heryng is at be laste."

Quod eyen, "we dase, and waxe blynd."

Quod handes and feet, "oure strenge is paste,"

Quod brayn and herte, "vs wantes mynde."

(15)

The mouth said, "You complain both of my eating and my fasting." They arrswered, "We are well as long as you observe moderation."

¶ Quod þe mouþe, "3e playne whyle y ete; And while y faste, 3e make gret doel." Quod hondes and feet, "also we gete

pat pou spendest eche a deel. We may play, swynke, and swete,

While moupe in mesure maket his mele.

For mesure kepep kynde hete,

And al pat tyme we fare wele."

(16)

Nota bene 1 liken a kingdom in a good condition to a healthy man; while his limbs are of one accord, he is brave; if they quarrel, he ¶ I likne a kyngdom in good astate,
To stalworpe man, mysty in hele.
While non of his lymes oper hate,
He is mysty, wip a-noper to dele.
3if eche of his lymes wip oper debate,
He waxep syk, for flesch is frele.

He waxeb syk, for flesch is frele.

His enemys wayte erly and late,

In his feblenesse, on hym to stele.

(17)

All limbs stand in need of one another.

¶ And hed were fro pe body stad,
Noper partye were set at nougt,
And body wipoute armes sprad.
Were armes wip-oute handis ougt?
Ne handis, but pey fyngres had?
Wipoute fingere, what were wrougt?
pes lymes makep hed ful glad,

And al be body, and it be souzt.

136

140

144

132

116

120

124

(18)

If you allow a man to hurt your finger, he will take your arm; ¶ 3if a man hurte by fynger or too, But bou make deffens o ferre, Leg or arm may take be fro;

if our friends be destroyed, we must take heed of our enemies. To body or hed, auntre hym herre. -Ensample to kyngdom, y set this so: And oure frendis be distroyed by werre, pan kepe pe wisely fro py foo;

For wip all his myst he wole come nerre.

(19)

¶ God saue þis man is so deuysed, Hed and body, all lymes in kynde.

But pere as vertues ben despysed,

To preye to god, $\mathfrak{p}\mathrm{e}\mathrm{y}$ waste here wynde.

God leue pat synne may be refused, And of dedly synnes vs vnbynde,

And eche stat in his kynde be vsed.

God, of his mercy, haue vs in mynde! Amen! 152

XVI. Z remembraunce of LII folges. [A.D. 1419]

[Digby 102, leaf 115.]
[9 stanzas of 14, abab, abab, cc ddd c.]

(1)

Oke how Flaundres dop fare wip his folyhede!

Durste no man dygge after troupe wip no manere toles.

To wynne ² wrongly wele, wod þey gan wede, But werkis of wys men were cast vnder stoles. Glosers counseled lordis for to take mede, To maken hem riche, and here lordis pore foles.

Whan pe souereyns were set, here sogettis to drede, be glosers skulked away, for shame of here sooles. 8

Falsed shal neuere ben ateynt Til Iuge here eche mannys pleynt.

Redresse, and make an ende, Or ellys to mercy bende;

Make hem kyssen and be frende,

pat were fon feynt.

(2)

¶ Fyfty folyes ben, and two;

Alle bo y wole mynne among.

To triste in trete to his fo

pat hap begyled hem ofte and long,

And hate hem pat telle hym so,

And wilfully wolle suffre wrong:

¹ I printed this, from my copy of the MS., in *Englisch Studien* 1897, in forgetfulness of Dr. Kail.—F. J. F.

God saves a man whose limbs are in full harmony.

148

Look how Flanders fares with her foolishness!

[2 lf. 115, bk.] They followed the fools, and despised the wise.

12

16

20

There are 52 follies.

He is a fool who trusts his enemies, and hates good counsellors;

	It is worthy he smerte and be wo,	
who buys	pat of his owen skyn wole kerue a thong.	
more than he can pay;	pat chepen moche, and not han to paye, And wip his lord to homly wole playe,	24
who swears and boasts beyond mea- sure;	Swere moche, and not be trowed; Boste moche, and not allowed;	24
who threat- ens all, but conquers none.	Threte alle men, and neuere on bowed: All are folyes, pat y say.	28
	(3)	
He is a fool, who begins war without money;	¶ He is a fool, pat werre wole wake, pat may not maynten it wip mede, And so moche vndertake,	
who makes his neigh-	pat wot wel he may not spede, And of his ney3ebour his enemy make	32
bour his enemy for a stranger's sake;	For a straunge mannys dede; And he pat mesure wole forsake,	
,	And nedles put hym-self in drede;	36
who reck- lessly kills a man;	Of mannys dep haue no roupe, But hate hem pat tellen hym troupe, Loue hym pat cherische hym in synne,	
	And suche games bygynne Where pat he wot he may not wynne,	40
	But besyen hym in sloupe.	
	(4)	
	¶ He is a fool, pat no good can,	
who will not listen to good	Ne non wole lere, but slow in dede.	44
advice;	A gret fool, y holde pat man	
who does not fear his	pat of his enemys hap no drede.	
enemies. With such	burgh suche foly, Flaundres be-gan;	48
follies Flanders began,	Of after perile pey tok non hede. Hit is worthy, he ete bred of bran,	40
ocgan,	pat wip floure his foo wil fede.	
	And truste al in gloser charmes,	
	In hyndryng in worschip of armes,	52
	And lette lawe it mot not syt,	
	And conscience away flyt,	
	May brynge a lord, er pat he wyt,	
	Emyddis grete harmes.	56

AVI. A Rememorance of Fifty-two Fotties. A.	D	1419. 71
(5)		
¶ Flaundres was pe richest land, and meriest to myn Now is it wrappid in wo, and moche welpe raft. For defaute of Iustice, and singulere to wynne, pey were rebell, to ryse craft agen craft.	60	now woe has befallen her. They were greedy of profit;
Here lord had part of pe foly bey were wounden yn. For thy he les his lordshipe, and here fraunchise r. Here enemys lawhen hem to skorne, and seyn, 'for syn Of here banere of grace, god broken hap be shaft.'	aft. ne,	in their folly, and so he lost his
When prelat is forbode to preche, No trewe man troupe dar teche, Encresyng of temperalte Suspende spiritualte: What land is gouerned in pat degre, May wayte after wreche.	68	[leaf 116] Where priests are forbidden to preach, and truthful men, to speak the truth, there God will send vengeance.
(6) ¶ I holde hym a fool, bous he be wys, pat spekep among men of name pat at his wysdom set no prys, But skorne hym, and don blame;	72	He is a fool who gives advice where he is not listened to.
And he pat tellep where peryle lys, And gete no ponk, but harm and shame; And he pat pleynep, y holde hym nys, pat get no mendys, but dowble grame.	76	
By bese poyntes fflaundres was lest; Now is it out of rule and of rest. Drede is here chef gayte. So eche man on hem bayte,	80	By such things Flanders has been ruined.
	84	
(7) ¶ He pat my3t thryue, and nel not thee, Ne his owen harmes knawe, Apert ne in preuytee		Whoever does not thrive, by his own fault,
Serue god for loue ne awe, Ne gouerne wel his owen degre, Ne rule hymself in ry3twys lawe:	88	
Whan wyse men fro hym fle, pen god his grace wole fro hem drawe.	92	will be for- saken by God.

bat moche wynneb, and no thyng wole haue. But zeue it awey, to nedeles bat craue. Can a man who gives his fortune to Azens conscience despit glozers, be Borwe moche, and neuere quyt: 96 saved by them? When god for bat gylt smyt, What glosere can bat wounde saue? (8)I bat freek may wel be holden a fool. He is to be thought a bat wayueb wit, and worcheb by wille, 100 fool, who is led by his own will, and And skippe into sclaundre scol, does not hear reason And scorne hym bat telleb hym skylle; And lyue in Lenton as in 300l. 104 His flesch in foly to fulfille. bous be dotard deve in dool, be ryatwys nel not rewe his ylle. Who so wil not knowe his awen astat, 108 Ne deliuere chekkys, er bat he be mat, He shal have worldis wondryng, And his soule hyndryng. And ay in paynes pondryng; 112 To mende panne, is to late. (9)¶ Of all folk vppon fold, v fynde but foure trewe, Of all people, there are but bat don here deuere dewely, and take no mede: four that take no meed: Syknes is oon, and sorw dop sewe, Illness, Sorrow 116 be thridde hat 'deb,' and be fierbe 'drede.' Death, and Dread. pey clayme vs by custom, for pey oure kyn knewe, Nota And endid wib oure aunsetres tyl bey to erbe zede. bey spare prynce ne pore, old ne newe, For pey crepe in-to his cors, and clope hem in his wede. Drede brynger man to buxomnes; 121 Sorwe of herte makeb synnes les; Syknes, brebe stekenyng, 124 And bowe to a bekenyng, And bryngeb hem to rekenyng,

Tyl deb all redresse.

XVII. Loue that god loueth.

[Digby 102, leaf 116.]

[25 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

That ilke man wole lerne wel To loue god wip al his my3t, bat loue in his herte fele.

pere god dop loue, loue pou ry3t;

There god dop hate euerydele, Hate it bobe day and nyat.

3eue hym 'nober mete ne mele,

But flyt hym fere out of 3oure sy3t.

4 Love what God loves,

and hate what he hates.

[1 lf. 116, bk.]

Man ought to love God

from many reasons.

You love a lord only for

your own profit's sake.

Such love does not please God.

(2

¶ Many gret[e] causes is,

To loue god, why men ou;te.

He shop vs lyk ymage his,

And with his det, fro pyne vs bougt,

And sut, bous we don ofte amys,

For eche a gylt he beteb vs noust;

And we penke to amende, he profrep to kys.

Man, of loue he hap besourt.

16

20

12

(3)

¶ 3if a lord 3eue fee or rent For to do a gret office,

To serue hym wel is pyn atent, For thy profyt, but not for his.

For he fyndep be by vaunsement;

by loue vppon pe profyt lys.
Suche worldly louers are gostly blent;

Suche loue to god is cold as yse.

(4)

¶ 3if pou serue god for helle drede, Or loue god for his blisse, pat loue is worth no parfyt mede: pou [sechest] thy profyt, and not hisse.

Nor is your love perfect if you serve God from fear of hell or from hope of heaven.

74 XV	III. Love what God loves, and hate what	He hates.
Nota de amore dei &c.	To pyne ne blis, take non hede, But loue god, for good he is. Suche loue to god, his erande dop spede, And plesep best to god y-wys.	32
	(5)	
Worldly men even do the 7 works of charity from such love.	¶ Fleschly man may do wele pe seuene werkes of mercy pat god bed: 3eue pore folk mete and mele,	
	Herberwe, drynk, clope, and fed,	36
	For syngulere profyt, eche a dele, For drede of pyne, and conetys of mede. Loue god ouer all, for good he is;	
	To pyne ne blisse, take non hede.	40
	(6)	
You must love God because he loves you.	¶ 3if pou sette loue in pat degre, To loue god, for he pe wrouzt, pan make pou hym as he dede pe,	
	pan loue for loue, euene is brouzt. 3if pou loue god, for he made pe fre, pat dyzed for the, to blisse pe bouzt, pan dyze pou for hym, as he dyzed for pe;	44
	3ut heuene blisse, pou quytest hym nou3t.	48
• God says,	(7) ¶ 3it o thyng þere is byhende, Man, þat god askeþ of the: "Alle worldys delys, fro þyn herte wende,	
"Love me with all thy heart, and turn thy thoughts away from worldly riches.	Wip alle pyn herte, loue pou me. by swete pouztes [pou] me sende; For worldis goodis, myn are he. Loue me gostly, pat am py frende,	52
	panne al euyl shal fro pe fle.	56
	(8)	
	¶ pat loue me gostly, y can assay, For gostly loue in herte y souzt.	
	Do worldly thyng fro pyn herte away, And haue me principal in py pouzt.	60

92 don't lie, or steal, or flatter."

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Be lord, and haue richesse, bou may; Worldis richesse, for man was wrougt.		Thou mayst be a lord and have estates,
Gostly loue, pat is my pray;		nota
But worldly goodis, in heuene comep noust.	64	but give me thy love.
(9)		
¶ For gold and syluer, and precyous stones, Swetnes of floures, erpely bewte, be shrynes wip all seyntes bones,		All the trea- sures of the world would
, ,	4.2	
In heuene were foul felpe to se.	68	be loathsome in Heaven.
Tyl body and soule agen arn ones		
Mad parfyt in claryte,		
Saue god hym self, in heuene wones,		Mankind
pe principal, mankynde shal be."	72	shall possess them till doomsday."
(10)		
¶ 'God! how may y, man, bygynne		Lord, how may 1 begin
Wib myn herte to loue be?'		may 1 begin to love thee?
"Repente, and wylne no more synne,		"Repent thy
So mowe we ¹ ² frendis be,	76	sins.
Good soule, sybbe to my kynne;		1 MS. 3e [2 leaf 117]
For y made it lik to me.		[1041 111]
Mankynde y tok, a mayden wib-ynne,		
, , ,	0.0	
So, gostly and bodyly, breperen be we.3	80	³ MS. wet
(11)		
¶ Who louep god, he wil bygynne		
For to folwe goddis lore;		•
Loke where he dede wrongly wynne,		
Make amendis, azen restore.	84	
3oure loue, fro me 3e parten o twynne		Thou with-
For worldis worship, ryches in store,	1	drawest thy love from me
Heuene gates ge steken and pynne;		by striving for worldly
pat ye shulde saue, 3e haue forlore.	88	honour and riches.
(12)		
¶ To gete loue bus bygynne:		
Wip clene herte, and swete bougt,	1	Don't depart
Wib trewe tong, not falsely wynne	i	from truth;

Wip trewe tong, not falsely wynne,

Ne stele, ne flatre, ne lyze nouzt.

76	XVII.	Love	what	God	loves,	and	hate	what	He	hates
----	-------	------	------	-----	--------	-----	------	------	----	-------

	. 21: 23000 total dott totas, and mate total 1	Le nans.
Do alms and penance, and stop sinning.	Do ryztwys dede, out and ynne, Loke by werkys be euene wrouzt; Do almes and penaunce, and leue by synne: Wib bese bre loue is bouzt."	96
	(13)	
If thou wilt not give me thy love, set a price on it; I'll offer my-	¶ God spekeþ to man, and lerneþ lore, þe comaundementis and þe Crede. "3cue me þy loue, y aske no more, Wiþ al þy herte, in loue and drede. And þou nylt 3cue it me, warne me byfore; Sette pris to selle it; loue and bede, I wole 3cue the myself þerfore.	100
self for it.	Where my3test pou haue a beter mede?	104
	(14)	
If thou wilt not sell it me,	¶ And pou nelt zeue ne selle it me, Azens me pou wilt debate,	
I shall pay thee hate for hate,	pan wil y gon away fro pe, And 3elde to pe hate for hate. My face wip loue shalt pou not se,	108
and damn thee.	But steke pe wipoute heuene 3ate, Fro alle vertues and charyte, Wip helle houndes, in endeles date.	112
	(15)	
I formed thee in my image;	¶ Haue y by loue, so may bou quyte I mad be lik ymage to me; And 3if be benke bat was to lyte,	
I died for thee; I don't punish thee for thy sins, but I give thee time to	panne penk, y dyed on rode tre. pouz pou trespas, y do not smyte, But byd zif pou wilt mendid be.	116
repent.	And pou be lost, whom wiltow wyte? Is it long on me or pe?	120
	. (16)	
	¶ Discrecioun of 30ng and old Of alle pynge nouşt ouşte.	
Love can be bought with love only.	Of alle pat may be boust and sold, Loue for loue is euenest bouste.	124

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Whan worldis loue dop fayle and folde, Goddis loue faylep nouzt. Trewe loue makep men be bolde;	Though all worldly love fail, the love of God will ever last.
Wib loue, felawship to-gydre is brougt. 12	8
(17)	
¶ ffor loue, god com fro heuene toure, In mayden Mary tok mankynde.	From love to man, I, God, took manhood.
ffor oure swete, he drank ful soure. Where my3t we trewere loue fynde? His loue passeb worldis tresoure, 3af sy3t in helle to gostly blynde.	2
And we wole knytte his loue to oure,	
ffor sope, pat knot shal neuere vnbynde.	6
(18)	
¶ "Haue y þy loue, so may þou gete	With love thou wilt
pat loue wole by soule saue,	gain Heaven.
Among myn angels hane a sete,	
In ioye of heuene, as seyntes haue.	0
3if pou nelt 1y wol pe prete,	[1 lf. 117, bk.]
In helle pyne be fendis knaue.	
Wip by conscience bou trete,	
Wheper is be leuere for to haue.	1
(19)	
¶ And bou madde in by mood, To werne me be loue bou has, I wole caste on be myn herte blod,	If thou re- fusest to love me, I shall torment thee in Hell.
To bere witnesse pou forfetest gras, And my vengeance, pat is so wood, Wip helle houndis in fyre pe chas.	8
bou hast fre wille, knowest euyH and good:	
Chese where wyltow take by plas. 15:	2
(20)	
¶ And bou of by loue daungere make,	I have no profit of thy
What may thy loue profyte me?	love.
And pour pou woldest me forsake,	
Out of my lordschipe pou my3t not fle. 156	3

78 XV	II. Love what God loves, and hate what	He	hates.
	Angels bryst, and deueles blake, In helle and heuene, my lordschipes be. pere be no mo wayes to take; Is loue or hate more profyt to pe?		160
	(21)		
	¶ 3if by loue to by flesch dob bende, To greue me bou dost bygynne.		
Whoever loves the world, shall lose more than he wins.	3if pou loue pe world pat wole make ende, Of hym pou shalt more lese pan wynne. 3if pou be suget, and loue pe fende,		164
	He wole be hate, and zeue pyne for synne. Loue me! y am god, by frende,		
	And oure loues shal neuere twynne.		168
	(22)		
True love need not fear enemies."	¶ Wheper trewe loue go or sende, Hym thar not tary in his dede.		
	When mede hap leue to stande byhynde, panne trewe loue, his erande may spede. pou; trewe loue haue lityl to spende, Euere he fyndep a frend at nede, pat fro his foon wole hym fende.		172
	Who so is loued, hym thar not drede."		176
	(23)		
	¶ God say), "y haue mercyes to dele, pat wole amende, no more do mys. My mercyes, pousandes mo ken fele		
Our salvation	pan pousandis worldis wikkidnes." His herte blod wrot oure hele,		180
was written with Christ's heart-blood on his body, and sealed with true- love.	And Ihesus body, be parchemyn is; Wib trewe loue he prented oure sele, but is heritage of oure blis.		184
	(24)		
There is a herb called true-love, which is	¶ pere is an herbe pat hattep 'trewe loue,' And by name it hap no pere,		
likened to Jesus.	Is lykned to Ihesus, y may proue:		

His handes and feet, be leves were;

XVIII. The Declaring of Religion: what it is, A.D. 1421, 79

His herte was wib a spere burgh-shoue, Mannys loue was hym so dere.

What soule is syk, lay pat herbe aboue, Hit makeb hool al y-fere.

Apply truelove to sick 192 souls.

(25)

¶ God biddib vs do no bynges but two: In loue and drede to hym bende:

Lede by soule, lustes fro,

World and flesch, and fro be fende.

Ihesus herte was cleued so.

To lete out trewe lone to his frende.

In that blisse, god, graunte vs go,

bere trewe loue woneb wibouten ende!

196

God grant us 200 to go where dwells.

XVIII. The declaring of religioun. [A.D. 1421]

[Digby 102, leaf 117, back.] [24 stanzas of 8, abab, abab,]

(1)

ho pat wole knowe condicion Of parfyt lyf in alle degre: God is foundour of religion.

Obedyent to charyte.

Swete poust in deuocion, Is weddid 1 to chastite,

In brennyng contemplacion. be higest lyf of spiritualte.

God is the founder of 4 religion.

[1 leaf 118]

Contemplation is the highest degree of religiousness.

The goode lyueres in spiritualte, be worldly lyueres hem dob hate, Wib occupacioun of temperalte Dryueb relegeon out at be 3ate

For besynesse of vanyte,

Vaynglory, and hyge astate. pat pus chaungen here degre,

bey come to heuene, neuere or late.

Worldly men neglect religion, and turn to 12 temporality.

	(3)	
Religion is a noble soul	¶ What is religion in mynde?	
in a clean heart;	In clene herte is soule o prys;	
	Out of praldom dop vnbynde;	
	A louer of vertues, a hatere of vys.	20
the soul is	Eche soule is parfyt clerk of kynde	
	In hy3e discrecion, and wys.	
unless it be governed by the flesh.	Of soules, men may no fooles fynde But assente to be flesch, and make hym nys.	24
	(4)	
Religion is a	¶ Religeon is champion in batayle,	
champion in the battle against temp-	Discomfites hys enemy;	
tation,	3if temptacions hym assayle,	
	pere he hath be victory.	28
and a true workman in	Religeon is trewe trauayle,	
the service	In goddis seruyce neuere werye.	
or dou.	Haue mede wip martyres, he may not fayle,	
	pat euere is redy for to dyze.	32
	(5)	
Works with- out discre-	¶ Werkys wip-oute discrecion,	
tion,	Vaynglory in staat is brou3t;	
shrift without contrition,	And shrift wip-oute contricion,	
contricion,	In skorne þe sacrament þey souzt;	36
and prayers without	And preyere wip-oute deuocion,	
devotion, dis- please God.	bous bey preye, god hereb hem noust:	
	be lippes turne preyers vp so doun,	
	þat spekeþ oþ <i>er</i> þan herte þouzt.	40
	(6)	
	¶ Cherische no vices in 30ure warde	
	To serue god in good atent,	
Be not too hard with	And non wip other be to harde,	
your fellow- monks;	pat ben professed in 3 oure couent;	44
they might regret to have	pey my3te for-penke it afterward	
taken orders.	bey tok be abyte, and wolde repente;	
	bey lese of god a gret reward	
	Whan wille fro religeon is wente.	48

XVIII. The Declaring of Religion: what it is.	A.D.	1421. 01
(7)		
¶ A questyon of 30w y craue,—		
Resoun assoyle it by skille,—		
Who may here soules saue,		
To were an abyte, wole or nelle?	52	
penk on by berbe, benk on by graue,		Whoever will save his soul,
by fleschely lustes not fulfille;		should think of his birth
For, helle ne heuene shal no man haue,		and of his grave.
Mawgre his teep, azeyns his wille.	56	
(8)		
¶ Thou; pou be of gentyl blod,		Noblemen,
benk all com of Adam and Eue.		remember that all men
Gadre not in propre, worldis good;		come from Adam and Eve.
pat nes no religeous, but worldis reue.	60	Eve.
be herre degre, be mekere of mood.		
Tak no vengeance, bou; folk be a-reue.		
Lat comon lawe stonde as hit stood,		
Loke no proude herte by charyte meue.	64	
(9)		
¶ Haue non enuye, ¹day ne nyat,		Don't envy
To goode lyuers bet þan 3e,		others their better life,
But auyze faste wih all by myzt		but emulate them.
To lyue beter pan dop he:	68	[1 lf. 118, bk.]
þan countrefetest þou goddis knyat;		
bat is enuye in charite.		
Alle pouztes in goddis doom are digt,		
And dedes, after pat pey be.	72	
(10)		
¶ Tho pat lyuen in fleschly delys,		
Fro pat companye remewe;		Avoid wicked
Loue here bodyes, but not here vys,		company,
And cherische hem to good vertue;	76	
And po pat wil al-gate be nys,		
Loke bou nost here maneres sewe.		
Go to company pat is wys,		keep with the
Lete fooles drynke pat pey dede brewe.	80	wise.
POEMS (OXF.).		

(11)

	(/	
Men of Religion,	¶ Religeous, be war, wip whom 3e stonde, Wip gentyles or folk pat worldly is,	
	pat 3e grype not hand in honde.	
when taking	When 3e take leue, loke not 3e kys.	84
leave, you may kiss men, but not	Man to man hem thar not wonde,	
women.	Ne woman to woman no peryle ne is;	
	But man to woman myste breke pe bonde;	
	In towche is susspessioun of mys.	88
	(12)	
	¶ Suche towches not 3e byde,	
Such touch-	Wolde buffete pe soule, and wounde wip-ynne,	
lngs might wound your own soul,	3eue opere cause, pat stonde bysyde,	\mathbf{v}'
and give others cause	To wene it were a bargayn of synne.	92
of suspicion.	Towches, in custom, pouztis hide;	
	pan sclaundre and shame nyH not twynne.	
	With conscience, sclaundre and shame dop chide;	
Nota de	To shewe opert he wol be-gynne.	96
religione,	(4.0)	
&c.	(13)	
	¶ With mekenesse 3e may heuene gete.	
	Dispyse non in low degre.	
Refuse hon-	Resceyue no worschip, ne hyze setc,	
ours and dignities.	pat pryde go bytwen god and pe,	100
	Wolde make to hem self forgete,	
	For worldis ryches and vanyte.	
Beware of	War for dronkenesse of drynkes grete,	
drunkenness and gluttony.	Fro glotry of metes of gret daynte.	104
	(14)	
	¶ To religeon mekely bende,	
	To serue god in loue and drede.	
Don't care	To herkene tydynges, not 3e wende,	
about news;	Ne bokes of vanyte, not 3e rede.	108
write letters	Resceyue no lettere, ne non out sende,	
to friends only.	But hit be for 3oure hous nede,	
	Oper to kyn or certeyn frende,	
	In goodnes 30ure erande for to spede.	112
	- ,	

XVIII. The Declaring of Religion. Advice to	Monk	s, etc. 83
(15)		
¶ Kepe 3 oure wacche and seruyce dewe, And rule of habyte clenely 3 eme; And file cours boytes with read matter		Do all your duties.
And fille 3 oure hertes wib good vertue, And wikked vyces fro 3 ow 3e fleme;	116	
But loke deuocion growe ay newe.	110	
Be suche wib-ynne, as 3e outward seme.		Be within,
Good aungel and wikked bope 30w sewe,		as holy as you look outside.
And wryten 30ure dedes, pat shal 30w deme.	120	Angels, good and bad, note all your acts.
(16)		
¶ Wacche not outrage in wast despence,		
Fro hard to nyce, by fflesch to fede.		
Wip bischop or shryfte 3e mowe despence,		You may grow perfect
Fro hard to hardere 3 oure lyf to lede.	124	without a bishop's or a
Withstonde temptacions, make defence;		confessor's special
be moo 3e withstonde, be more mede.		orders. The more
And 3e wip seyntes will have reuerence, pan moste 3e countrefete here dede.	128	you with- stand temp- tations, the more you will be re-
(17)		warded.
¶ Kepe ¹sylence, whyder 3e byde or go,		[1 leaf 119]
Fro wordis of vanyte, soure lippes steke.		Refrain from
Speke faire to frend and fo,		vain words.
For fayre speche dop wrappe breke.	132	
pat dop wrong, deme so.		Blame sins indulgently.
Lete not vengeance, by wrappe wreke.		maaagentij.
Vengeance is goddis, he demep po		
In werk and word, all pat men speke.	136	
(18)		
¶ In rule of religeon is ordeyned 3 ore:		
Byze no thyng to selle and wynne.		Don't buy
Marchaunt and religeous, on mot be forbore;		and sell for profit's sake.
pey may not wone, on herte wipynne.	140	
Ne kepe no iewels ne propre in store;		
pat nes no religeous, but dedly synne		

144

In fleschly delices, and loue it more
To parte by loue and god atwynne.

	(19)	
Don't set those who lead a con- templative life,	¶ That penkep good pouzt in sylence, pey speken to god in specyale. How mow ze lette hem, for conscience,	
to worldly work.	Calle hem to werkis generall? Summe bidden, in vertue of obedience, Contemplatyf in spirituale;	148
	To religeon they don a gret defence,	
	pat bryngen hem to werkis temperale.	152
	(20)	
Nobleness	¶ Hy3e astate, ne gentyl blod,	
and riches bring nobody	Brynget no man to heuene blisse.	
to Heaven,	Gret hors ne iewel, ne browded hood,	
	Nes no cause of holynesse,	156
but humility and righte-	But pore of spirit and make of mood.	
ousness may	3cue god by soule, and eche man hisse.	
	Gret lordschipe, ne myche good,	
	Nes no cause of sykernesse.	160
	(21)	
A monk's	¶ Tonsure, abyte, ne no wede,	
habit, fasting, prayers,	Nes no cause of religeon,	
and alms- deeds don't	Ne wakyng, ne fastyng, ne almesdede,	
prove religi- ousness,	Ne preyere ne oreson,	164
,	But pe herte perto take hede,	
	Wip werkys of discrecion.	
but devotion and contem-	Deuocion make p soules to spede	
plation do so.	Wip werkis of contemplacion.	168
	(22)	
	¶ Religeon is most meke	
	In abyte, of alle vertues floures.	
	Richesse, ne worldis worschipe, seke,	
	But offre to god alle honoures.	172
	Richesse and worschipe make soules syke	
Let your vir- tues be the	In vaynglory and sharp[e] shoures.	
wax, and de- votion the	Make vertues be wax, deuocioun be wyke,	1 = 0
wick, to shine	To brenne brist in heuene boures.	176

XVIII. Advice to Monks, etc. XIX. God's Appeal to Man. 85

(23)

¶ Iustice is religeon in sete, Justice is religion in the tribunal. bat demeb rist in all degre. And queste is religeon, troube to trete ; Beueb eche man, bat his shulde be. 180

A child may wib his fader plete, And gut kepe his charyte, And of his kyng blameles gete Lawe is so genty H and so fre. 184

(24)

I bous summe of thy breberen don a trespas, He wole amende and do no moo. Parauenture bou art in be same cas,

Or after, myat ben in suche two. 188

Loke not bat bou hym chace, Ne sclaundre hym not to haue shame and wo.

Pray god forzeue hym of his grace, And kepe be wel bou do not so.

but pray God to forgive him, and beware 192 of the same slip.

If one of your brethren

trespass,

be not harsh to him,

XIX. God's Appeal to Man.

[Digby 102, leaf 119, back.]

[14 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

In my conscience I fynde, And in my soule I here and see, To repreue man bat is vnkynde, Goddis wordis pis may be:

"Man of resoun, haue in mynde, I made be lyk ymage to me;

For love y hadde to mankynde. I toke manhed, lyk to be.

(2)

¶ Mannys loue y 3erned 3ore; bat loue was in myn herte souzt. Mannys loue sat me so sore, Nas neuere bargayn derrere bouat. 4 God may say. "Man, remember that I took manhood from love of thee.

Why dost thou not love me?	Man! is pe laft no loue in store? What is pe cause pou louest me nou;t? Telle me ;if y my;te don more. What is byhynd, pat lakkep pe ou;t?	16
	(3)	
	¶ For by loue y meked me lowe,	
I died for thee.	And dyzed on be rode tre.	
	Answere, man, and be aknowe:	
What didst thou suffer	Shewe what you suffred for me;	20
for me?	For suche seed as you dost sowe,	
	perof shal byn heruest be,	
	In heuene or helle to repe and mowe. As bou deserved, fong by fee.	24
	As you described, rong py ree.	21
	(4)	
	¶ Man, to be y make my mone:	
	I boust be fro pyne to blisse;	
	Melte byn herte, as hard as stone;	
Do penance for thy sins,	pouz it be late, amende by mysse.	28
ior only ama.	In wrappe, pouz pou be fro me gon,	
Turn, and I will kiss thee.	Turne azayn, y wol þe kysse.	
	To make me frendis of my fon,	0.0
	perfore y 3af my lyf for hysse.	32
	(5)	
Don't strive	¶ Be war, and loue not worldis good	
to get worldly treasures.	To gete wip wrong, and calle it thyn.	
	Man, haue it in by mood,	
	pou shalt rekene; for alle is myn.	36
I bought thee, thou shouldst	Why bouste y be on the rood?	
serve me.	For you shulde serue, and be myn hyne.	
	Make not myn argumentis wood,	46
	To caste pe fro blisse to pyne.	40
	(6)	
Thy sins pain	¶ Man, why turmentest bou me so?	
me.	Euere by synnes don encresce,	
Thy vices	And by vices waxen moo,	
grow; thy	And by vertues wenen lesse.	4

Thenke good y be, thy foo. Whanne wylt bou of by synne ses, Haue mercy on by soule woo,		Remember thy God, and have mercy on thy soul.
Or haue mynde on me, and 3eue me pes?	48	
(7)		
¶ To suffre dep, y meked me, Fro pyne to blisse, py soule to wynne.		I humbled myself to die for thee,
To me so shuldest bou meke be, Leue and forbere by synne. Fro my lordschipe my3t bou not fle, Heuene ne helle, ne see wip-ynne, But where and whenne my wille be,	52	therefore thou shouldst give up thy sins. Thou canst not flee from my power.
by body and soule to parte o twynne.	56	
(8) ¶ Thou; y haue graunted be grace To knowe bobe good and ylle,		
Wyte by self in eche a place, Wheper bou wylt by self spille. bou; flesch and world and fend [be] chas,	60	
Temptacion profre be tille, bou myst forbere and noust trespas; I lente be knoweleche and fre wille.	64	Resist tempt- ations.
(9)	04	
¶ In syknesse and pouerte, Glade perynne, and panke me all. pe more pou hast perof plente,		Thank me for sickness and poverty.
pe nerre pe, be y shaH. pan say, 'Lord, kepe me ney; pe! At nede, here me when y caH! Take fro me hele and prosperite	68	[leaf 110]
Rapere pan lete me fro pe fall!'	72	
(10) ¶ Man, rewe on my paynes sore,		
Repente by synne, and mercy craue. By my woundes, swere no more.		Repent, and swear no more.
Dysmembre no lymes pat y haue.	76	

Restore ill- gotten goods.	by wrong wynnyng, agen restore. 3if bou wilt by soule saue,	
Let thy soul	Lete soule be lord, and go byfore,	
rule over thy body.	And make by body by soule knaue.	80
	(11)	
	¶ Man, and pou wist how,	
Thou mayst easily win my	So liztly my gre to make,	
grace.	pou noldest, for alle pe worldis prow,	
	For fleschly lustes me forsake.	84
	In py lyue, besye pe now;	
	In goode werkis wysely wake;	
	In loue, drede, to me bow,	
	And fle to me fro synnes blake.	88
	(12)	
Do the seven	¶ Seuene werkis of mercy, kepe hem well,	
works of charity,	pe comaundementis and pe Crede,	
keep my com- mandments,	AH by lyue, as y be telle;	
and give me thy heart.	3eue me pyn herte in loue and drede.	92
tny neart.	Whyle body and soule togydre dwelle,	
	bou myst serue pyne and mede.	
	When soule is out of flesch and felle,	
	Shal neuere do synne ne almesdede.	96
	(13)	
	¶ Mayntene not wrong, to ealle it ry3t.	
Vengeance	Vengeaunce and mercy, neyzebores ben po.	
and mercy are neigh-	As messageres bey ben dy3t,	
bours,	Mercy to frend, vengeaunce to foo.	100
	3oure dede in derk, y se in sy3t;	
	pere nys nó pouzt hid me fro.	
thou wilt get	After by dede, be doom is dy3t.	
one of them according to thy works.	Vengeaunce and mercy departed hem so.	104
	(14)	
My doom is	¶ For my doom is rigtwisnesse;	
righteous;	Ri3twys longep to pe godhede;	
my son's	And my sones dom is wys,	
merciful;	For mercy longep to pe manhede.	108

be holy gost grace lys, He zeueb lyf, he zeueb no dede. the Holy Ghost gives

Ouercome my wrappe, and fle fro vys,

And do be comaundementis bat y bede."

112

XX. [Now Man's flesh complained to God against Christ.

[Digby 102, leaf 120.] [27 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

The tixt of holy writ, men sayu, Hit sleep, but glose be among.

The spirit of vnderstandyng quykeneb agayn, And maket the lyue endeles long.

A fantasie v herde savn.

There-of me lust to make a song, ' How mannys flesch to god dede playn On Ihesu Crist, had don hym wrong.' I will tell how the flesh complained of Christ.

> It said. "God.

Jesus has alienated my

12 soul from me.

(2)

The flesch, his playnt bus dob bygynne To god fader, in heuene on hyat:

"Ihesu, brother of oure kynne, Hab bygyled me wib his sleyat.

He hap parted my soule and me o twynne, And raft [it] fro me by his myst.

Now, rystwys god, let mercy blynne! On lhesu, by sone, do me ryat!

16

(3)

¶ Body and soule, bou dede me make, In vnyte to-gydre so. Now hat Ihesu my soule take,

And bus parted oure loue o two.

My soule hat me [now] forsake; Sumtyme was frend, now is fo: Byd me go wolward, faste, and wake, Alle here iove is of my woo.

20

Formerly she was my friend, now she is my enemy.

-	4	•

	(-)	
"My soul has taken refuge	¶ Fro me, to by sone, my soule is flet;	
with thy son,	Ful ofte by sone in me here souste;	
	Now here loue to hym so fast is knete,	
	Away fro hym wol sche nou3t.	28
[leaf 120, bk.]	She semes dronken, or out of wit;	
and does not care about me.	Of myn euelfare she has no pouzt.	
me.	pat sorwe is so in myn herte hit,	
	I trowe to depe y mon be brougt.	32
	(5)	
Formerly she was mild,	¶ Sum-tyme my soule was mylde	
was milu,	To my biddyng, in hoot and colde,	
	Synge, or playe, or chambres bylde,	
now she seems to be	Chef seruaunt of myn housholde.	36
mad.	Now Ihesu hap made here made and wylde;	
	ffro hym, departe neuere she nolde.	
	She setteb on hym rigt as a childe;	
	Azens me she berep here bolde.	40
	(6)	
She will not	¶ Whan I of here counseil craue,	
allow me to have worldly pleasures.	Of fleschly lustes to haue my wille,	
pleasures.	She callep me wod, and seyp y raue;	
	She will neu ere graunte per tille.	44
	She biddep me haue mynde of my graue,	
	Rule me in resoun and skille.	
	I was mayster, now am y knaue;	
	In that stat, brynge me she wille.	48
	- (7)	
She always	¶ Wolde y be proud, she biddeb be meke;	
bids me act in opposition	Wolde y be gloton, she biddeb me faste;	
to my will to do wrong.	pere y wolde take, she biddes me eke;	
	Wolde y be lyther, she biddis be chaste;	5
	3if y fy3te, she biddes ley forb my cheke;	
	pere y am slow, she biddis be haste;	
	Here answere is not to seke;	
	To speke to here, my wynde y waste.	5

(8)

¶ Ihesu com fro heuene blisse. And tok flesch in a mayden fre, Lowely, and most [of] mekenesse,

Hyd vnder flesch oure fraternite; [1 MS. flesch fleschly] 60

Now wold [he] take my soule to his, ffor he suffred pyne and pouerte.

3it sumwhat v mv2te acorde to bis:

But why shulde my soule hate me?

"I should not mind Christ's taking my soul away.

64 unless she hated me.

(9)

¶ Whan Ihesu and my soule be met, Sone my werkis bey aspize;

Here wit on me fast bey whet:

'In shame, and skorne, and vylenye, To folwe by fleschly lustes let,

Or ellis bobe 3e shal dy3e.' bus am y vnder and ouer set.

She spettes on me, and dob me fyze.

He and my soul blame my works,

68 and warn me against sensuality.

72

(10)

¶ Wib me, my soule he dob brete, And maket my soule me to hate. Wib plesande wordis, he hoteb here gete

In heuene blisse, a quenes astate. pan comeb she hom in wrappe-ful hete,

Bedeb here lette, bobe erly and late, Casteb me doun, and dob me bete.

And tredet on me, and maket debate.

He makes her hate and ill-

treat me.

76

80

(11)

Thanne renneb she agen as she were wood; To Ihesu, by sone, she dob flyge.

He fedeb here wib his flesch and blood, But panne here pouztes mownten hyze. She biddib me water and bred to food;

As mortkyn forsaken, she let me lize. She holder me euyll, and no byng good,

But a stynkyng carayne in here eyze.

He feeds her with his flesh 84 and blood.

> and then she despises me.

	(12)	
	¶ bus my soule, my body slees	
	Wib gret anguysche and turment.	
	She telles, Ihesu dyzed for pes;	
	But fro his skole she is went;	9
	Bytwen vs werre dob encres.	
	Here swerd is drawen, here bow is bent.	
"My soul	She sayb but, 'fleschly lustes, sees!	
requires me to give up sensuality, lest we both	We mon be dede, and bope be shent.'	9
be disgraced.	(13)	
	¶ She acordid wip Ihesu, and me dede flyte,	
[1 leaf 121]	And sayde y shulde be 1 maked tame,	
	And sayde my werkys me adyte,	
	And bryngen me in wikked fame.	10
She loves my	3if worldly men me don smyte,	
enemies,	And don me bobe wrong and grame,	
	She loue that don me despyte,	
and prays for all who shame me.	And preyet for all pat don me shame.	10
	(14)	
	¶ Hy3e fader, god of ri3twisnes,	
	Haue mynde of my sorwe sore!	
	And it be founden Ihesu loued mysse,	
God, restore me my soul,	To me my soule agen restore—	108
me my sour,	A litil playnt nes noşt þisse,	
	And alle pat y haue sayd 3 ore-	
	pat y and my soule be frendis and kisse,	
and make her love me agaln;	And loue, as we dede here byfore.	11:
	(15)	
	¶ For my soule, Ihesu suffred wo,	
	Bounden and beten wip skourges ynowe,	
	Crowned wip thorn, nayled also	
Jesus died from love	On croos, tyl dep dede hym bowe.	116
of her.	Wib a spere, his herte let cleue a two,	
	Wyde open his loue myste out flowe,	
	So lop hym was his loue forgo;	
	He is worpy be loued, pat so dede wowe.	120

(16)

¶ My soule, y holde, holy es it,¹ [¹ Ms. it es]
For she louel I hesu, but louel here wel.

"My soul

But loue were tendere to loue vsed,

Were harder ban ston, and styffere ban stel.

loves Jesus,

On Ihesu she is amerous and ful auvsed.

What weed the bear a he can be a felo

124

What worldly pyng she seep or fele,

Al worldly ioye she hap refused,

and hates the world.

And me she louep neuere a dele.

128

(17)

¶ I wante my wille, and euel fare y, Fro worldly merbe put o syde.

Fro worldis worschip she dop me tary.

I may no poust fro here hyde.

and turns me away from worldly

pere y blisse, she dob wary;

pere y speke fayre, she dop chyde. She is newe waxen al contrary.

pere y dwelle, she nyl not byde.

136

(18)

¶ She repreue, my dagged clopes, And longe pyked crakowed shon; Vpbreyde[b] me my grete opes,

She scorns my fashionable dress,

And sayb y breke goddis bone.

140

pat me is lef, all she lopes. I seye 'opere men so don.' and hates all that I like.

She seyb, bey go to helle wobes,
Wole to wende, wib hem to wone.

144

(19)

TWip Ihesu, alway is she,

And now she lyp wip hym in cracche, Now into Egipt wip hym dop fle She accompanies Jesus through all his life.

Fro Herowdes, lest he hem cacche.

In his moder armes, born wol she be.

148

And sowke wip hym, as chylde in tacche. She folwer hym in al degre.

And countrefeteb to ben his macche.

(20)

	(20)	
"My soul eats and drinks with Jesus,	¶ Wip hym dop drynke and ete, To lerne of his discressioun; Wip hym sche is skourged and bete,	
and is with him in his passion	And crucyfyed in his passioun; She is with hym in helle hete,	156
and ascen- sion."	Wip hym in his resurexioun, And stye in-to heuene in his fadres se[t]e;	
	pens nolde she neuere come doun."	160
	(21)	
God an- swered, "Flesh, by	¶ Now pe playnt is at pe last. God answerd wip mylde soun: 'fflesch,' he sayde, 'pou iangelest fast	
this com- plaint thou	Moche dene, and no resoun.	164
accusest thy- self.	Alle by wordes bou dost waste.	
	Wille wipoute discressioun,	
	byn awen pleynt be dob caste; bou turnest by self vp so doun.	168
	pou turnest yy seri vp so doun.	100
	(22)	
[leaf 121, bk.]	¶ Thou makest maystershepe in al vys, And here [turnest] fro my way,	
	And makest here pral to fleschely delys,	
	In vanyte to al worldly play.	172
Thy soul is ashamed of thy vices.	She is ashamed, now she is wys; Sche lyued in vowtrye so many a day.	
thy vices	She hap chosen be loue most o prys,	
	And cast be fals[e] loue away.'	176
	(23)	
	¶ God seip: 'man, y made pe of nou3t,	
	And kyd pat y loued be dere,	
	And soule of resoun in be wrougt,	180
Thou hast	ffayre and wys, angels pere. bou hast defouled be ymage bat y wrougt,	100
disgraced my image, and	In servage to fendis and fendis fere.	
art the devil's	She folwed by wille in dede and boust,	
	In alle place, fer and nere.	184

(24)

¶ On Ihesu pou pleynt dost make, Sayde he bigyled pe wip sley3te, And biddest me lete mercy slake, "Now thou complainest of Christ,

And on Ihesu do pe ry3t.

My sone, for pe, dede deth take,

And kydde pe loue most of my3t.

188 who died for thee.

bous he loue dede forsake,

How woldest bou bis doom were dyat?

192

(25)

¶ Flesch, by synnes mochil is; bou art cast in byn awen caas.

Knowleche, repente, and mende by mys, And be in wille no more trespas.

I nel deme be in ry3twisnes, But medle berwib mercy and grace, And brynge by soule to heuene blys, Wib loue to se my fayre face.

I shall not judge thee after justice, but after mercy, and bring thy soul

200 to Heaven.

(26)

¶ In ouerhope, be not to bold
In synne, for to haue mercy.
Let not wanhope in be be old.

Do not sin in excess or in want of hope.

For my grace is euere redy. Fro helle pynes hoot and cold

I assoyle be, and out of purgatory.

At py deth, or body be cold,

To Ihesu in heuene py soule shal fleye.

204

208

(27)

¶ In good werkis wysely wake,
Playne not on Ihesu, what he sende.
Sykenes, pouerte, mekely take;
Richesse and hele wysely spende,
And helpe all pore for goddis sake.

pan god wole lede 30w, as his frend,
To ioye of heuene pat shal neuere slake.'

212 Suffer sickness and poverty, and help the poor."

In-to pat blisse, god graunte vs wende! Amen! 216

XXI. I lernyng to good lenynge.

[Digby 102, leaf 121, back.]

[20 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

Blessed be he DOre of spirit, blessed l

who is poor in spirit:

he shall be a lord in the kingdom of

Heaven.

[1 leaf 1227

Pore of spirit, blessed be:
pouz he be lord of richesse fele,
He berep penaunce and pouerte.

That of his good to pore folk dele,
Of be kyngdom of heuene a lord is he.

pat counseylep wel to soule hele, And lyuep in werkis of charyte,

Suche folk to heuene preuyly stele.

(2)

8

12

16

20

24

28

¶ Sip god dop blisse, and grauntep blis pat don his word, and holde it trewe,

Cursed is he who avariciously strives outly strives to refere the contrarious pat vertue. but lyue contrarious pat vertue.

pat fillep his herte wip ryches,

Nedeles aueryce gadryng newe,

he shall never find rest in Hell.

For wikkid counseil, helle is his, here neuere nes reste, but euere remewe.

(3)

Blessed be he who is meek in spirit;

Blessid be man pat in herte is mylde,
Buxom to lerne, and lef to teche,

he shall possess the carth, and lead others to Heaven.

Shal owe pe lerpe, and peron bylde,

In helpe of mony his rychesse reche,

Of shrewes, make goddis childe,

Of gostly woundes, be soule leche;
Make tame to god, po pat were wylde.

Of eche good lyucre, his werkis preche.

(4)

Cursed be the hard-hearted man;

| panne cursed be man in herte ruyde, |
| pat neuere nel lere ne vnderstond. |
| pouz he owe erpe, he shal not byde, |
| Til it be, out of his hond.

XXI. A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the Mount. 97

When conscience his werkis chyde,
pat man shal neuere reioyse lond.
Fro alle vertues pat dop hym hyde,
To alle myscheues he makep hym bond.

32

(5)

¶ Blessed be he bat morneb sore Blessed be he who repents His brebere synnes, his awen mysdede. his sins ; Repente, and wille to do no more. But holde be hestes bat god bede: 36 His wrong wynnyng agen restore. restores illgotten goods, and helps the And helpe pore bat han nede. poor; He shal be counforted perfore, he shall be comforted in In heuene blisse haue his mede. 40 Heaven

(6)

¶ Than cursed be he hap ioye of synne,
And euere encresep mo and mo,

Boste perof, delyte perynne,
3eue men ensample to do so.

Heuene 3ates fro hem they pynne,
Of goddis frendis make goddis foo;
In helle pey purchas here ynne;
His felaschipe, with hym thay go.

(7)

Cursed be he who increases his sins,

24 and misleads others.

44 and misleads others.

¶ Blessed euere mote he be,
pat hungren and thursten ry3twisnes;
He wolde were wel in al degre,
pat god and man echon had his.
Gostly hunger and thurstes he
pat fayn wolde mende pat is mys.
Ful filled he shal wip grete deynte
At goddis feste in heuene blisse.

Blessed be he who hungers and thirsts for righteousness;

he shall be filled full in Heaven.

52

(8)

¶ Than cursed is he pat ful is fylde, Wip wrong take pore mennys thrift, pat makep pore men be spilde,¹ For synguler profyt is sotyH theft;

Cursed is he who harms the poor

¹ MS. ; spi3ed.

60 for his own profit's sake.

POEMS (OXF.).

H

98 XXI.	A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the	Mount.
	Make gulteles folk presoned and kylde, Of hous and land make wrongwys gyft; Wip hunger and pirst his hous is bylde. In helle is shewed eueH-sponnen wyft.	64
	(9)	
Blessed be he who helps the poor and needy.	¶ Blessid be pe mercyable; Mercy and mede, of god he fonges. In goddis doom he stondes stable,	
	pat wrekep not all his owen wronges.	68
	To pore folk he is profytable, pat leuep his good hem amonges.	
	Sorefull and hungry, he fyndeb hem table,	
	The sorwefull he gladeb to synge songes.	72
	(10)	
The week subs	¶ Thanne, how of hem han hertis stoute	
The rich who don't help the poor	bat reweb non pore bat han penaunce,	
poor	Han nedeles gold nost to lene it oute,	
	But to be borwere gret greuaunce;	76
	But he may quyte, is zerne aboute	
	To presone hym or make destaunce:	
shall be	But he be cursed, it is in dowte;	
cursed. [1 lf. 122, bk.]	pat hap no mercy, 1 mote have vengeaunce.	80
	(11)	
Blessed be the peaceful	¶ Blessed be he pat louep pes,	
man, he shall be called a	Mekely to goddis byddyng bende.	
child of God.	He shal be cleped, at goddis dees,	
	Goddis sone, good and hende.	84
	He wolde all werre shulde asses,	
	Of goddis foon, make goddis frende;	
	Make soule wip ioye to heuene pres, And sorwe and werre to helle wip fende.	88
	(12)	
Whoever	Than, how of hem pat pes dop hate,	
hates peace, and excites	Wolde ouerall were werre and woo,	
troubles for his profit's	Eche man wip oper debate,	
sake,	6 (1 11 1 6 1	0.9

pat shulde be frend, make hem foo;

92

XXI. A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the Mount. 99

For synguler wynnyng to his astate, Lede his men, opere to sloo: He shal be blessed neuere or late; His werkis cursep hym, where he go.	96	shall be con- demned by his own works.
(13)		
The clene of herte, blissed be, pat lyuep after goddis lore.		Blessed be he who has a clean heart;
God hym self he shal see, pere as blisse is euere more; And gouernep wel his owen degre, And dop pe dede pat he come fore;	100	he shall see God.
Fulfylleb be werkis of charyte: His vertue gadereth mede in store.	104	
(14) ¶ The herte pat is fyled in synne, And sulpep his soule wip spottes of blame,		Whoever lets his heart rot in sin, falls
Goddis curs he dop wynne, pat spysep hym-self and goddis name. His actata he released dwells have not a	108	under the curse of God.
His astate, he nele not dwelle perynne; To serue god hym penkep shame. 3if god and he departe o twynne,	110	
In helle he may be meked tame.	112	
(15)		
¶ That is pursued¹ for ri3twisnes Is blessid, where he go or ryde; be kyngdom of heuene is his, [¹ MS. presued]		Blessed is he who is perse- cuted for righteous- ness' sake;
pat querell to ende, in charite byde. God wole brynge hym to heuene blis, And fro his enemys pere wole hym hyde;	116	for he shall go to the kingdom of Heaven.
And be bat pursue hym with mys, To helle bey ben here awen gyde.	120	
(16)		
¶ Thanne are they cursed in here lyf, pat auauncep be fals, and stroyep be trewe, Mayntene fals quereH and stryf,		Cursed are those who maintain falsehood against right;
D:	101	

124

Mayntene fals querell and stryf, Riştwis men wrongly pursue,

100 XXI. A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the Mount.

they shall reap as they sow.	Defowle bope mayden and wyf, pat shulde be clene in alle vertue. Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf; For he shal repe pat he sewe.	128
'You shall be blessed	(17) ¶ 3e shal be blessid, erly and late, By vertue of gospell pat 3e preche. 3e shul be blessid, whan folk 30w hate, And cursen 30w for 30ure speche.	132
though people hate you for my sake.'	3 oure tonge is kaye of heuene 3 ate, 3 oure word, be way to heuene hem teche. Folk wip 3 ow schal debate, ffor me wip lesynges 3 ow apeche.	136
	(18)	
Be cheerful, for your reward in Heaven shall be great; and be not afraid	¶ Glade 3e wip-ynne, and ioye wip-oute; 3oure mede in heuene moche is. Drede no tyrauntes sterne and stoute	
of tyrants, who may slay your body; but fear God, who may save or spoil [leaf 123]	May sle by body, and take as his. God, be fader of heuene, 3e dowte May brynge be soule to pyne or blis; He schal deme all be world aboute,	140
both your body and soul.	To heuene for goode, to helf for mys.	144
	(19)	
You are the salt of the earth.	¶ Of erpe 3e ben cleped 'salt,' ffor salt of wisdom soule saues;	
Do your work well,	Go vp-ri3t and be not halt, ffor mayster of seruaunt his service craves.	148
you will have to account for it.	byn astate rekene bou shalt, How bou it gat, how bou it saues.	
	Fewe ben chosen, bou3 mony ben calt, Fro goddis seruyce are worldly knaues.	152
	(20)	
Nota	¶ To lanterne 3e ben likned ri3t,	
You are a lantern to the	In all be world 3e shal be kyd.	
world; don't hide your light,	3oure prechyng shal be candel list, Noust vnder worldly buschel hyd,	156

But on a candel-styke on hişt;

Nouşt vnder a chiste, vnder a lyd;
In good werkis shyne 3e bry3t,

And lyue 3e so, rişt as 3e byd.

but let it shine in good works.

XXII. Knowe thy self and thy god.

[Digby 102, leaf 123.]
[9 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Thenke hertely in py poust
Of what matere pou dede bygynne.
Of fylthy seed pou were wroust,
And wan in at pe wyket of synne.
Foulere fylpe knowe y noust
pan pou were fed py moder wip-ynne;
In a sake ful of filpe pou was out broust,
In wrecchednes horyble, and stynkyng skynne.

Remember of what stuff thou art made.

4

(2)

¶ What bou art, knowe by self wel.

bou were conceyued in synne, and born wib woo.

by moder and bou, on fortune whel,

In perile of deb, parted a-twoo.

Of pynes of helle, what soules fele,

And bou in mynde keped boo,

Hit wolde make by corage kele,

Whan bou hadde wil, to synne goo.

Thou wast conceived and born in sin.

Thou wast conceived and born in sin.

(3)

¶ God made þe of nou3t, haue in mynde, Wiþ soule of resoun, lyk his ymage. In heuene, wiþ angels, aboue þe wynde, He ordeyned þe endeles heritage. Wiþ more loue he dede þe bynde: Bycome þy brother in mannys lynage.

He became thy brother;

God made

image.

20

He, ielous louer and trewest to fynde, by soule is spouse to his maryage.

24 thy soul is his spouse.

(4)

Keep thy wedlock truly, and don't make him a cuckold.

¶ To god, thy wedlok wip loue holde,
In brennyng contemplacion,
And make nougt hym cokewolde,
To loue in fornycacion.
On goddis mercy be not to bolde,
To falle in temptacion.
Kepe charite hot, let it not colde
For quenchyng of deuocion.

(5)

Love thy

¶ Loue all folk in charyte,
Body and soule in good atent,
As pou wolde pey dede pe;
pat is goddis comaundement.
Who breke po hestes, cursed is he
Til pey come to mendement.
pou preyest euere-more in all degre
Til put pou to synne assent.

(6)

Think of thy sins and of thy virtues. ¶ That bou hast don sib bou were bore,
All by lyuyng bybenk be newe.
Wheber hast bou more in store,
Or of vices or of vertue;
And wheber hast bou folwed more
Good aungel or wykked, for bobe be sewe;
by countretayle bey wil shewe, be skore,
In helle or in heuene, ¹wreten trewe.

(7)

Remember the passion

[1 lf. 123, bk.]

¶ Haue mynde, god sente his sone adoun,
Tok mankynde in flesch and felle,
And suffred hard passioun,
Dyed on croys, and heryed helle.
Haue mynde of his resurexioun;
Byleue all pis trewe gospelle.

and the ascension of the Lord. Haue mynde on his Assencioun;
On god his fader rist hond, dob dwelle.

32

28

36

40

44

48

52

56

XXII. Know thyself & God. XXIII. Sacrament of Altar. 103

(8)

(0)		
¶ penke pou shalt dye, and nost whenne; pou art incertayn, perfore drede.		Thou must die, and shalt go either to Heaven or to
Fro heueue to erpe, god shal come penne,		Hell.
Deme euel and good, after here dede;	60	
be good, to heuene blisse renne,		
In endeles lyf to have here mede;		
be wikked, in helle for to brenne,		
In endeles pyne, deb shal hem fede.	64	

(9)

(ϑ)		
¶ The ten comaundementis, bou hem kepe; be seuen werkis of mercy, wel hem vse;		Keep the command- ments, flee from sin.
be seuene synnes bou be-wepe,		,
by fyue wittes be anyse.	68	
Do penaunce, and preye whyle bou schuld slepe;		do penance.
be fend and fals[e] world despise;		
No fleschly lustes be vndercrepe;		
Fle all foly, and folwe be wise!	72	

XXIII. Of the sacrament of the 3ltere.

[Digby 102, leaf 123, back.] (16 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.)

(1)

Wole be mendid 3if y say mys.

Holychirche nes noper tre ne stones.

pe hous of preyers, god nempned bys,

Bobe goode men and wikked ressayueb at ones.

4

bere as gadryng of goode men ys,

Is holychyrche of flesch and bones.

Prestes are lanterne, hem to wysse

be wise weyes to heuene wones.

4 The Church is a congregation of good men;

priests are to lead the way to Heaven.

(2)

¶ Holychirche, hery3e by saueour,
bynk by hurd, god on hi3t,
Wiþ song and ympnes, tyde and houre,
Reioys in hym day and ny3t;

¶ Church,
glorify thy
saviour.

12

104	XXIII. Of the Sacrament of the Altar.	
	For he is more pan any honour, For his honour passep oure myst, For we ben his, and he is oure; All poustes ben to hym dyst.	16
	(3)	
This day is most fit for glorifying, the bread of the holy	¶ A specyall tyme of heryeng here. Lyueliche quyk bred is put forp bis day, Whyche in be table of be holy sopere,	
supper being exhibited.	Wip-outen doute was 30uen oure fay	20
	To be company of twelfe breberen bere were. By here ful heryenge, ioyed bay;	
	Wel sowned in here ere,	
	Wip ioly herte, fayre song to say.	24
	(4)	
By this we know	¶ A day is mad of solempnyte, Of þis table first ordynaunce is worschipful tolde.	
that Easter has come round again.	In his newe kynges table, now knowe we	28
Toung again.	Newe Estren endep the olde. Newe thyng dryuep old pyng fro his degre; Out of mynde, pe lasse of tolde.	20
	So sopfast sunne, by hys pouste, Dryuep awey shadewe, and strizep colde.	32
		-
	(5)	
As the light removes the night, so did Christ at the	¶ As ly3t li3tenep ny3t, fro derkenes of kynde, So dede crist at pe holy sopere,	
holy supper;	Bad pertely do so of hym mynde,	
he bade us consecrate	By holy ordynaunce tau3t vs to lere,	36
bread and wine	Halwe bred and wyn, by hys word and wynd,	
to drive away	To an ost of helpe to cristen men here, ffro shadwe of dep, to gostly blynd,	
the shadow of death.	To list of lyf, to shynen clere.	40
	(6)	
	¶ Lore is 30uen to cristen men,	
The breed to	T . A	

The bread is turned into [leaf 124] flesh; the wine into blood.

In-to flesch passeb be bred; As holychirche dob vs kenne,

be wyn, to blod, pat is so red.

bou seest not fleschly bou takest benne;
by byleue of herte, makeb be fast fro ded,
Wibouten ordre of bynges, to renne,
By tokene and word bat he bede.

48

(7)

¶ Wip-outen help of ordre of pyngis, pe bok of oure byleue is lent, Vnder dyuerce spices only tokenynges, pouz pe spices fro hym be went, Not durked ne hyd, but rizt shynynges

52

pous pe spices fro hym be went,

Not durked ne hyd, but rist shynynges,
pous fleschly syst fro hym be blent,
pe soule hap ioyc, and mery synges,

When good byleue seep pe sacrament.

You cannot see the transubstantiation with your fleshly eyes, but only in your belief.

(8)

¶ pe blod is drynk, pe flesch is mete,
Ys gostly fode, pe soules delys;
Neuere-pe-lattere, of crist to trete,
He dwellep vnder ayper spys.
pe ressayuour countep not put pey ete,
Ne brekep it not, but hool it lys.
pou; a thowsand take at o sete,
Alone on takep as moche o prys.

Christ is present in either species, even in the smallest part of it,

(9)

¶ While obley in yrnes, or boyst ys stoken,
Hit nys but bred, and sengyl bake;
Whanne þe prest, to hit, goddis wordis hath spoken,
Crystys quyk body, vndir bred o cake.

poug it a þousand peces seme broken,

as soon as the priest has spoken the words of God.

Nes parted ne wasted, but al holl take. In byleue of holychirche, who wyl hym 30ken, A3en pis, non argument may make.

72

64

(10)

¶ That ressayue, children, man, and wyf, Not al yliche deuocioun. Summe taken it in synne and stryf, As bestes wib-outen discrecioun.

The wicked receive in the housel their damnation; the good, their salva- tion.	be wikkid resceueb a dedly knyf, And his endeles dampnacioun; be good resceyueb endeles lyf, To body and soule saluacioun.	80
Though you receive only a smail part of the host,	(11) ¶ When bou to chirche gost To resceyue god, wisely go. I suppose be prest haue but on ost, Breke it, and parte to twenty and mo: As moche is be leste cost As in be grettest peec of bo; Deme all yliche, lest and most; Quaue not, ne drede not, to sen hit so.	84
		66
	(12)	
	¶ pous pe prest pe sacrament clyue	
the sacrament does not lose its virtue.	In a powsand peces and pre, pe state, ne stature, ne myst dop myue, Ne lesep ne lassep of his pouste. py fleschly syst pou shalt not lyue; But tokene of brekyng makep he; For fleschly skyn, no sacrement kan preue, In gostly bylyue shal saued be.	92 96
	(13)	
The Jews ate a lamb at Easter; we eat living bread.	¶ In old[e] lawe, 3e wyten how At estren pey eten a lamb al ded, Is ouer put in newe lawe now;	
	At estre, we eten quyk bred. In old[e] lawe, for mannys prow, God be comaundementis bed; And oure newe lawe we don allow,	100
	And kepen boje by goddis red.	104
	(14)	
Jesus, forgive us our tres-	¶ Lete by mercy passe ry3t,	
passes,	And forzene vs oure mysdede! by face, wip lone to seen in syst,	
lead us to Heaven,	In lond of lyf, pou vs lede.	108

Among by seyntes in heuene on hyst, At pat feste of lif, god, vs fede! Sopfast bred, god of myst, Thesus herde, bou vs hede!

and feed us among the [lf. 124, bk.] saints.

sus nerue, pou vs nec

112

(15)

¶ In syst and in felyng, bon semest bred,
In byleue, flesch, blod, and bon;
In syst and felyng, bon semest ded,
In byleue, lyf, to speke and gon;
In syst and felyng, nober hond ne hed,
In byleue, bobe god and man;
In syst and felyng, in litil sted,
In byleue, grettere byng nes nan.

To our senses thon seemest common bread; but in our belief, thou art the living and almighty

God.

120

(16)

"Whan Abraham of Ysaac his offryng made, ffor a ffygure he lykned is
To angels bred, oure fadres hadde,
pat god fed hem in wyldernes.
Afterward, god hem bade,
"A paske lomb rosted, and etep pes."
In stede of pat, oure soules to glade,
We reseeyue oure houself, god o blisse.

Isaac,

the manna,

and the paschal lamb, were types of Christ, whom we receive in the housel.

XXIV. The Pessouns of the Dirige.

[Digby 102, leaf 124, back.] [52 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Lectio prima: Parce mihi, domine.

A lmyzty god, lord, me spare,
ffor sope, my dayes werkys ben nozt.
My wittes on nyztes wrong y ware,
perof longe zeres mon be wrozt.
penke, man, pou ware born ful bare.
In-to pis world what hastou brozt?
Out of pis world whanne pou schalt fare,
pou schalt bere with pe ryzt nozt.

Spare me, O Lord, for my works are vain.

4

	(2)	
What is	¶ What is man of gret renoun,	*
man ?	That of hym self makeb aldre mest?	
Why doest	Why settyst bou by herte agen resoun,	
thoù sud- denly punish him?	And sodeynly repreuest hem mest?	1:
aun:	In pe dawenynge pou souztest hem vpsodoun.	
	Contrary to godis hest	
	bou purchasest by saule helle prisoun;	
	For fleschely lust, wormes fest.	16
	(3)	
How long will thy	¶ How longe sparest pou me no3t,	
punishment last?	To swolwe my spotel, bote it me gryue?	
	pou keper of men, alle pyng hast wro3t;	
	What shal y do to pyn byhyue?	20
	What hastou set me contrarie by bost,	
	by holy lawe to repryue?	
B 1/ 1 /	Lord, whenne my werkis mon be so3t,	0
Don't despise me in my misery.	Dyspyce me nost in my myschyue!	2
	(4)	
I am dis- gusted with	¶ Ful heuy to my self y am maad withynne;	
myself.	My werkes, on me heuye isse.	
	Why takest bou nost away my synne,	0
	And bere from me my wykednesse?	28
	I slepe in dust, for we ben kynne,	
	For erthe clayme, me for hisse.	
	To seche me eerly, 3if bou begynne,	35
	I ne may withstonde pe y-wisse.	3.
	(5)	
	Lectio secunda: Tedet animam meam.	
My soul dis-	¶ My soul, of my self anoyed isse.	
dains me.	I shal leue my speche azens me.	
	To my soul y wole speke in bitternesse,	
1 shall say, "Don't con-	And y shal saye to god so fre:	30
demn me, O Lord;	Wyl no3t dampne me fro blisse,	
show me the cause of thy	Shew me be cause, but wolde I se,	
anger.	Why demeston me bog y dede mysse,	
	Lord, whether be bynke good to be.	4

(6)

¶ 3if bou chalenge my werk, and bere me down, Me that am werk of by hande,

And you in consayl helpe 3e moun

To wykked men here synnes withstande, Wiþ repentaunce and sorwful ¹soun

May launce hem from be deuelys bande:

To 3erde of loue y moste me boun; Lord, me chastice wip pat wande. 44 Thou helpest wicked men
[1 leaf 125] to repent their sins;
I bow to thy wand of love;

48 chastise me

(7)

¶ Wheher byn eyzen ben fleschlye, Or bou seest as man shal see?

Or by dayes so sone syze,
As other mennys dayes be?

Or py zerys rizt so hye,
As mennys tymes in here degre?—

For you art god shal neuere dyze,

For sorwe and deb shal from the fle—

Are thy eyes as man's eyes, and thy days

as men's 52 days,

56

(8)

¶ That bou seche my wykkednesse, And ransake my synne, And wyte I haue nost down mysse,

Bote hert and soule clene withynne.

Sopes per no man nesse

May skape pyn hond, and from the twynne,
Bote repentaunce and mercy kesse.

pat now ben frendis, lord, make hem kynne.

that thou searchest for my wickedness

60 though my soul is clean?

lord, make hem kynne. 64

(9)

Lectio tertia: Manus tue fecerunt me.

¶ Thy hand made me man of resoun,¹ [¹ Ms. be soun]

And shope me al in compas,
And sodeynly bou cast me doun,

ffor knew y no;t what you was. Of me men sample take mowen.

Be ware lest pay folwe my tras.

I hadde lordship in feld and toun,

Now on a doughille is my pas.

Thy hand made me,

and now it suddenly casts me down.

68

Let others take an example by me.

I was rich, now I lie on a dunghill.

Thou madest me of dust, and wilt reduce me to dust. ¶ Haue mynde on me, lord, and take hede
Of fen of erthe pou dede me make.
In-to dust agen pou shalt me lede,
My soule from pe body take.

My flesch is ful sleper atte nede,
And solpep my soule wip synnes blake.
Lord god, py dome y drede.

Whanne pou comest, y mon awake.

80

(11)

¶ My hert shulde be stedefast,
pou hast lopred as mylk, and slep in poust,
Rist as chese pou croddest me fast.
I wyte my synnes pat y wroust.
Lord, alle my synnes away pou cast,
Bote with my synnes cast me nost.

bou sette my terme, y passe it no3t. 88

84

96

(12)

bou knowest how longe my lyf shulde last;

Thou clothedst me with flesh and bone, and gavest me life.

Thou formedst me like cheese.

¶ pou clopedest me with flesch and skyn,
With bones and synewes made me to-gyder;
Lyf and mercy 3af me withyn;
As brotel vessel y stonde slyder.

py sechyng hap kepyd my gost with wyn.
A, lord, whenne pou comest hyder
To deme al erpe, py domes to twyn

(13)

bous I wolde fle, I not nost whyder.

Whither shall I flee from thee on doomsday? ¶ To deme be eithe whanne bou wendys,
Fro face of by wrappe whyder shal I go?
To hyde me wip angels aren goddis frendys?
And god me hate, bay ben my fo.
100
And I hyde me in helle among fendys,

In pyne pay wolen tormente me so.

[1 If. 125, bk.] I haue synned ¹ rigt moche, my synne me schendys.

Me thynke pay waxen mo and mo. 104

(14)

¶ My trespas moche arn blamed.

Bote repentaunce be mendement,

Byfore þe, y drede, y am aschamed.

Whenne bou comest to jugement.

I fear I shall be disgraced by thy judgment.

pat weren wylde, mon be tamed,
Al wopen of wrappe mon be brent;

ment.

In bok of lyf po pat be named, To love of heuene mon be sent.

112

(15)

¶ Almy;ty god, lord, me ;eme,
In thy mercy pou me lede.
Whenne my soule is boden out fleme,
Helpe me, lord, atte al my nede.

Have mercy on me;

Helpe me, lord, atte al my nede.

Whenne pou al pe world shal deme,
Dampne me nost after my dede.

Whenne pat angels blowen here beme

116

Whenne pat angels blowen here beme, penne alle folk may haue gret drede.

120

(16)

¶ From worldis worschipe y am shoue,
And bro3t abas from al astat.

My skyn is cloped al on roue,
In pouerte and peyne my wyt is mat.

Lord, chastice me wip 3erd of loue,
pou3 y haue seruyd pe swerd of hat.

Wherto wyltou py maystry proue,
Wip suchon as I to make debat?

124

chastise me with the wand of love, though I deserve the sword of 128 revenge.

(17)

Lectio quarta: Quantas habeo.

Als many wykkednesse and trespas
And synnes withoute noumbre mo
Shew me; why hydest by fas
fro me, and demest me by fo?
Lord, penkes pe solace
This turment, and do me wo?
Advence of the pression for the form

132

This turment, and do me wo?

A drope of thy mercie of oyle of grace,
Lord, graunte me er y go.

Grant me a drop of thy mercy.

(18)

¶ I am slyme of erthe, haue in mynde, Pore of matere and dedely, As a lef styrede with wynde. I am but a withered leaf. On me bou prouest by maystry. 140 and against that thou provest thy bou propest by myat, and bat I fynde, power. O be stubble, but is so drye, bou pursuest me, and wylt me bynde, 144 Wib synnes in my zoube bou wylt me stroye. (19)¶ Lord, bou pursuest me fast, for sobe, agens me bou doest wryte Bitternesse, bote swete is past. I may noat blenche whenne bou wylt smyte. 148 I trowe pat bou wolt me wast, With synnes in my 3oupe do me endite. Thou visitest me for the Lord, on me by wille bou hast. sins of my youth. 152 My grete synne myself y wyte. (20)¶ In synne bou settest my fot and hede, And alle my werkes hastou soat, And alle steppys y euere 3ede; 3e haue nombred alle my wordes and bost. 156 Thou hast counted all And als bou hast taken hede, my words Roten y schal be, wasted to nost; As clothes but mobbes on hem fede, 160 So shal my flesch with wormes soat. (21)¶ Wo [to] me, so mon y be, For y have don moche synne. I, wreche, whyder shal y fle Whither shall I flee but to 164 ffor wrechyd lyf y lyned ynne? thee. My lord, my god, nost bote to the! God of mercie, on me mynne! God of mercy? Lord, haue mercie on me,

Let nost thy loue 1 fro me twynne!

[1 leaf 126]

(22)

Lectio quinta: Homo natus.

I Man, that is of woman born, Lyuvnge short tyme he is. Er his nauel be knytte and shorn, The life of man is short. Before his

ffulfilde with many wrechidnes. Er he fro moder be forborn, In peryl of deth, bothe partie es.

navel is knotted and 172 cut, he is full of wretchedness.

3if flesch be lord, the soule is lorn; Bote soule be lord, he leseth his blys.

176

(23)

¶ Man geth out as don floures, Corage and strengthe, and fayre of hewe; He withers like flowers,

Makeb moche of hymself, saybe al is oures, And repeth bat he neuere ne sewe.

Encresceb mo vyces ban vertew.

180

184

He is defouled be daves and houres, And fleeb as shadow, bat neuere grewe; Dwelleb neuere in be self stat of ouris,

and vanishes like shadows;

(24)

¶ And bou holdest worthy to open thyn ey, And come to me, and clayme for rent, To loke on such a wrecche as v.

and thou vouchsafest to look at me.

And lede hym with the to iugement, per al mankynde in company, Atte thy general parlement;

188 and to lead me to thy judgment.

Vertues to heuen ther schul 3e try, The vyces in helle fyre be brent.

192

(25)

¶ What man may make hym clene, pat is conceyued in vnclene sed ? Ywhether bou art alone, withoute mene? To felowschipe bou hast non nede.

196

Short ar mannys dayes sene, And the nombre of hys monthes in thy dede.

The life of man is short : his term of fat and lean is set: he cannot prolong it for meed.

bou hast sette his terme of fat and lene. He passeb it nost for no mede. POEMS (OXF.).

204

208

212

216

220

224

228

232

(26)

Go a little away from me, that I may rest in amendment till I die. ¶ A, go away a lytel hym fro,
In mendement that he mow rest
Tyl the day he gerned so.

Tyl the day he 3erned so,

A, of harde man, come þat is best.

Lord, haue no mynde to do me wo,

fforber my synnes wolde make me lest.

Lord, whenne pou comest to deme so

Al pe world be fyre, bope est and west,

God, in by syst by way y go
Ryst ham; in by fayb me fest!

(27)

On doomsday ¶ Lord, whenne bou demest alle byng in rist,

Wher mercie shal nost knawen be; Ryst leseb nost his myst,

let mercy be joined with right, pouş mercie be in companye. Mercy is euere in by syşt,

For mercie euere pyn eygen se. Wher-euere py dome is dygt,

Rist claymen mercie for his fee.

(28)

Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat.

Who can grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?

¶ Who zeueb to me, but y me hyde Tylle by wrapbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule agen be fast?

With arguments nost me chyde!

bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde,

And neuere fro by face me cast!

(29)

Fix a time when thou wilt remember me. ¶ pou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is digt.

Trowest bou ouzt bat y, dede man, Shal haue azeyn man of myzt,

And 3elde rekenyng sen y bygan With alle dayes pat y now fy3t?

[16. 126, bk.] Now I abyde pat I fro ran,

Tyl my folwyng come to myn insigt.

(30)

¶ Lord, pou shalt clepe me,
And I shal answere to pe, werk of pyn hande.

236 Thou shalt call me, and I shall answer.

Werk of py ri3t hand, take to pe;

bou shalt not bynde it in helle bande.

bou hast noumbred my steppes, how mony bay be, How monye y ran, how monye I stande. 240

Bot spare bou, lord, to be synne of me,

Ne wilne nost deme my werkes se fande.

(31)

¶ Deme me noşt after my dede, Lord, I byseche þe! 244

I have don in by sizt, and tok non hede;
berfore I praye by mageste,

God, my wikkednesse away pou lede, Myn vnryat away wasche ae!

Non more; lord, at my nede, Of alle my synnes clense 3e me! from me, and make me

248 Take my sins

(32)

Lectio septima: Spiritus 1 meus. [1 MS. spē]

¶ My gost, shalt þou be made newe,
My dayes shulle yshorted be;
My soule fro þe body mon remewe,
Alone a graue byleueth to me.

My soul shalt
escape from
252
my body;
only the
graves shalt
be left to me.

I haue non synne, no vices me sewe,

Myn eyen in bitternesse dwelle y se. 256

Deliuere me, lord, and on me rewe, And sette me bysydes the!

(33)

¶ Whos hande pou wolt azeyn me fyzt,
And pou proue by stronge hande? 260

My dayes ben passed to withstonde by my3t, I may no3t bere by litel wande.

I may no3t bere by litel wande.

My thou3tes ben wasted, turned in ry3t,

Turmentynge my herte inwith and ande;

1 cannot bear your little wanted wasted, turned in ry3t,

264 torment my bear torment my bear

And turnyd day to be nyst.

After derkenesse I have bedded my bed, I fande.

	(34)	
I said to rot- tenness and to the worms, 'You are my parents	¶ I sayde to stynke and rotenesse, 'My fader and moder arn 3e;' And to wormes y sayde bysse:	268
and my brothers."	'My systren and my brethern both be 3e.'	
Earth claims me as her own.	And erthe claymet me for hysse, Where ten now my bydynge to me.	272
	My felynge bou art, and my god of blisse. Drede of deth droueth me.	
	(35)	
Sin is always increasing,	¶ Eche a day synnyng,	
virtue de- creasing.	And euere newe encres;	276
	Neuere a day blynnyng,	
	Bote euere vertue wane les. ¹ [1 MS. waneles]	
	To repente no bygynnyng,	
	No3t bote gadre synne ay in pres.	280
	In helle is no wynnyng,	
	Ne non azeynbyynge to pes.	
	(36)	
	Lectio octava: Pelli mee.	
My body	¶ My flesches ben wasted, don me refuse,	
decays.	My bones cleuyn vnto þe skyn;	284
	My lippes arn shronken out of syse,	
	Aboute my teth arn left atwyn.	
	Haue mercye on myn werk vnwyse,	
Have mercy,	Haue mercie on me, let mercie wyn!	288
especially you, my	Namly my frendes, me no3t despyse;	
friends.	Lordis hande hath towched me more and myn.	
	(37)	
	¶ Why pursue 3e me, and on me syte,	
	And arn filled of my flesch and fel?	292
Who will	Who zeueb to me, but wolde y wyte,	
grant my words to be	Wordes in boke be ered wel,	
written, with an iron	Or in a plate of led wryten	
pencil, on a leaden plate?		296
	Or in a flynt grauen and spyten	

By craft of werk withoute chysel?

304

312

316 me to be

320

328

life to the soul in dark-

(38)

¶ I byleue ¹ þat soth y say,
Myn aşeynbyere lyuynge isse.
I shal rysen of þe erthe my laste day,
Bylapped in my flesch and skyn ywisse;
Byholde with myn eyæn twey,

Se god, my sauyour, in blisse; Non other ey3en bote þes, withouten nay;

Non other ey3en bote pes, withouten nay; pe hope in my bosom yput vp isse.

(39)

¶ The soule is in derkenesse from gostly syst.

Lord, 3yue here rest and pees!

Withouten ende, 3yue here lyst,

Euerlastynge lyst, þat neuere shal sees!

everlasting

bou pat rered Lazar on hy;t
Out of pe graue, stynkynge fro wormes pres,

by pauylon of mercy be on hem py3t, To reste fro pyne, make hem reles.

(40)

[2 MS. nulla]

Lectio nona: Quare de uulua² eduxisti me qui, &c.

¶ Out of þe wombe, why hastou me brozt,

hat milde a letter than allow

pat wolde y hadde be fordon? panne hadde I be as no;t,

Noon eyze hadde sene me after son ;

pan hadde I be as vnwrozt, Nozt born from wombe to berelis doun,

Where my short dayes arn in my post, Where pay shal nost be ended moun.

(41)

¶ A, perfore, lord, graunte me pes
To wepe and wayle, repente my synne,

bat y torne noşt aşeyn to erthe of derkenes,

To attraction of them.

To attract of the like the like

To stryues of dep, be curyd perynne, Lond of wrethes and pesternesse

per is shadew of dep, noon oper wynne;

ber woneb euerlastynge for hem lyued mysse, Euere gryslyhede, bat neuere schal blynne.

(42)

Libera me, domine.

	,	
but deliver me from eter- nal death,	¶ Delyuere me, lord, from endeles depe In pat grete dredful day, Where heuenys schullen be styred from erpe brepe, Whenne pou shalt come to deme for ay. To heuen, or helle, pat on he gep; pe word be fyre, and grete afray. panne, woo to the synful, his soule slep, And fendys claymen hym for here pray.	332 336
	(43)	
On doomsday	¶ That day shal be a day of drede,	
nobody shall be able to change his sentence,	Of wrappe and myschyf, and wrechidnesse. pere may no man opere rede, Ne make amendis for his mysse. ffor worldly witnesse of synful ded,	340
	Gostly payne in bitternesse.	344
either by counsel or by meed.	pere helpep neper counseil ne med; Ech man for hymself, to payne, or blysse.	
	(44)	
What shall I say then, baving no virtues to produce?	¶ What shal y say for shame and drede, Or what to do, fool and nys, Whanne y shal schewe forp no good dede Byfore so gret iuge and wys? Al folk on me woln take hede,	348
	Wayte after vertue, and fynde vys. Say, "God, mercy, by dome y drede, ffor in be, al mercy lys."	352
	(45)	
Jesus, have mercy on us,	¶ Now, crist, of by mercie we craue, Haue mercie on vs, and leue no3t,	356
[1 lf. 127, bk.]	To bye vs, bou from heuene vs so3t, Oure herytage for vs to haue.	9.44
and destroy not the work of thy hand.	pat wern lorn, pou hast bogt. Wyl nogt dampne in helle kaue, Thy honde warke pou hast wrogt.	360

(46)

¶ pe brennynge soule in helle hete, Withouten ende wepe thoo.

Allas, oure synnes don vs bete,

364 The souls in Hell suffer endless pains,

pay say, 'wo, wo, wo!

Here is no remedie to gete.'

pay walke in derkenesse to and fro, be stynk and derkenesse is so grete, 368

Allas, in pysternesse we go.

(47)

¶ God, that art shapere of al, Of slyme of erthe bou me wroat. Thou madest me of earthslime.

Wib by blod principal.

Wonderly bou haste vs bost.

pouz my body now rote smal,
My soule to my body shal be brozt.

Thou shalt unite again my soul with my body.

Out of my graue, reyse me bou schal To lyues man, and fayle nort,

(48)

¶ Blod and boon, flesche and felle.

Here my prayer: in parfitnesse

At domesday comaunde my soule to dwelle

380

384

In Abrahamys bosum, in thy blisse,
Whenne bou shalt delyuere me fram syst of helle.

Let my soul dwell in Abraham's bosom.

pou breke pe 3ates of helle, ywisse, pou sou3test helle in peynes felle, 3af ly3t to hem in grete bry3tnesse.

(49)

¶ Alas, y may be schamed sore,

388 lam afraid of appearing before the great judge.

At domesday stonde in drede;
I, to come so gret a Iuge byfore,

And shewe forp no good dede, Bote fardel of synnes gadred in store;

be fendes redy my rolle to rede, be countretayle to shewe, be score,

392 The devils will read man's sins,

pe leste steppe pat euere y 3ede.

	(50)	
and his good	¶ The good aungel on his ry3t syde,	
angel will accuse him.	Whenne he hem ladde with merye songe,	396
	And whenne he wolde no;t folwe hy[m], glyde	
	Out of the waye, he wente wronge;	
	In vertues he nolde abyde;	
	pe good aungel mourned amonge.	400
	"With be soule nel y chyde;	
	Y zeue pe vp for endeles longe."	
	(51)	
	¶ At domesday no man shal be excusyd,	
	Lord ne lady, mayde ne knaue;	404
	ffor wykked counsel scholde be refusyd,	
	And after good counsayle craue.	
Everybody will be judged	After warke pat pay vsed,	
after his	I shal hem deme, or saue.	408
	pe sauyd excusyd, pe dampnyd accusyd,	
	As thay deservyd echon haue.	
	(52)	
Man will	¶ Ech touche and mouynge with hys honde,	
have to account for all his works.	be leste twynkelynge wyb his eyze,	412
	His wronge worke sitte or stonde,	
	Ryde or go, sitte or lyze.	
	pouz he spede nozt pere he dede fonde,	
	Hys conscience wole hym bewrye;	416
	Benefice, auauncement, hous or londe,	
	The leste bargayn pat he dede bye.	

XXV. (Pety Job, or Parce mihi, Domine!)

[Douce MS. 322, 1 leaf 10.]

[57 stanzas of 12, abab, abab, and baba or bcbc, with Latin subjects.]

Here begynneth the nyne lessons of the Dirige whych Job made in hys tribulacion, lying on the Donghyll, and ben declared more opynly to lewde

ш

¹ At the beginning, a coat of arms painted: gules, a chevron azure, between three garbs or, 2 and 1.

mennes understanding by a solempne, worthy, and discrete clerke, Ruchard Hampole, and ys cleped pety Job, and vs full profitable to stere synners to compunccion.

VI

Parce michi, domine, nichil enim sunt dies mei.

Spare me, O Lord.

vef lord, my soule thow spare, ■ The sothe I sev now sykerly. That my dayes nought they are ; ffor though I be bryght of ble, The favrest man that vs oughware,

for my life is vain. 4 Though I be

Yet shall my favrenesse fade and fle.

the handsomest man. yet I shall be WOFTING

And I shalbe wormes ware.

8

[. . . no gap in the MS.] And when my body ys all bare,

And on a bere brought shal be,

I nat what I may synge thare But Parce michi, domine.

12

(2)

Quid est homo, quia magnificas eum ?

What ys a man, wete I wolde, That magnifyeth hymself alway, But a marke, made in molde,

Man is only a mark made in sand.

Of a clyngyng clot of clay? Thow shopest vs for that we shulde

16 Thou madest us to gain Heaven, but we don't

Haue ben in blysse for euer and ay; But nowe, allas, bothe yong and olde

think of it.

fforvetvn hit bothe nyght and day. A, good lord, what shall I say,

I that stande in thys degre?

I wote nothing that helpe may But Parce michi, domine.

24

20

Aut quid opponis erga eum cor tuum, visitas eum diliculo, et subito probas illum?

Or why puttist thow thyn hert avenst man That thow hast so dere bought?

Why doest thou visit and try man?

Thow vysyteste hym, and art full favne Sodenly to preue vef he be ought.

28

	=, =, =	•
	To longe in synne we haue layne;	
	ffor synne hath so oure soule thorow sought,	
Nothing can deliver us	To helpe oureself haue we no mayne,	
from our sins	So moche woo hit hath vs wrought.	3:
	But to the pyt when we be brought,	
	Then men woll wepe for the and me.	
	But certes all that helpeth nought	
except thy mercy.	But Parce michi, domine.	3
	(4)	
	Vsquequo non parcis michi nec dimittas : gluciam saliuam meam ? peccaui.	me v
How long	Or why so longe or thow wolt spare	37
How long will thy pun- ishmentlast?	Me in synne that depe dyne?	
	Thow woldest suffer neuer more	
	Me to swolowe my salyue?	40
	I have the gylt, and greuyd sore,	11
	for synne with me hathe ben to ryue.	
	But, lord, now lere me with thy lore	
	That dedly synne fro me may dryue.	44
	And Ihesu, for thy woundes fyue,	1.
	As thow becammest man for me,	
	When I shall passe oute of lyue,	
	Than Parce michi, domine.	48
		*(
	(5)	
	Quid faciam tibi, o custos hominum?	_
	posuisti me contrarium tibi, et factus	sun
	michimet ipsi grauis?	
	What shall I do vn-to the,	49
	O thow kepar of all mankynde?	
	Of suche a matiere why madest thow me,	
Why didst thou make	To the contrarious me for to fynde?	52
me thy ad- versary?	O fader of heuen, fayre and fre,	
	As thow art bothe good and hende,	
	Yet be kynde as thow hast be,	
Spare me, and let me be thy	And spare me, lorde, that am vnkynde.	56
friend.	Thy frenshyp, fader, late me fynde,	
	As thow art god in trinite.	
	Of thy mercy make me haue mynde	
	Wyth Parce michi, domine.	60

My weakness is the cause 68 of my sin-

fulness.

Cur non tollis peccatum meum, et quare non aufers [1 lf. 10, bk.] iniquitatem meam ?

Why takest thow nat my syn away, Why doest thou not take A, thow god of all goodnesse ? my wickedness from And why also, as I the say, me ? 64

Dost nat awey my wykednesse?

Thow madest me of a clot of clay,

That breketh ofte thorough brotylnesse. ffull brotyll I am, hit ys no nay;

That maketh me ofte to do amysse. But good Ihesu, I pray thys ffor thy grete benygnyte:

Thy mercy, lorde, late me nat mys,

But Parce michi, domine.

72

(7)

Ecce, nunc in puluere dormio; et si mane me quesieris, non subsistam.

Loo, in pouder I shall slepe, 73 1 sleep in dust, of which ffor owte of poudere furst I cam, thou madest me. And into poudere must I crepe. ffor of that same kynde I am. 76

That I ne am pouder I may not threpe. ffor erthe I am, as was Adam ;

And nowe my pytte vs doluen depe.

Though men me seke, ryght nought I am. 80

O thow, fader Abraham.

ffor Mary loue, that mayde so fre,

In whos blode thy son swamme.

So Parce michi, domine. 84

(8)

TEdet animam meam vite mee; dimittam aduersum me eloquium meum; loquar in amaritudine amime mee; dicam deo, "noli me condempnare; indica michi cur me ita iudices."

yt forthynketh my soule y-wys, My soul is disgusted at The lyfe that I have lad alway; the life I led. ffor now my speche ayenst me ys,

Sothly my lyfe I shall dysplay.

124	XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'	
In my grief	In sorow and in bytternesse Of myn oune soule, thus shall I say:	
	Now, good Ihesu, kynge of blysse,	
I shall crave thy mercy.	Dampne me nat at domesday.	92
	And, good Ihesu, to the I pray,	
	Telle how thus thow demest me.	
	Nowe yeue me mercy, and say nat nay, Wyth Parce michi, domine.	96
	,	90
	(9)	
	Nunquid tibi bonum videtur si calumpnieri	
	oprimas me, opus manuu m tuar um , et consimption aditues?	num
	Semeth hit good, lorde, vnto the,	97
	To thryste me doune, and me accuse?	01
	I am thy werke, thow madest me:	
Don't spoll	Thyne oune handwerk thow nat refuse.	100
me, the work of thy own hands.	Wythyn the close of cheryte,	
hands.	Good god, thow me recluse,	
	And yef I gylte the in any degre,	
	With thy mercy thow me excuse,	104
	Ne late me neuer of maters muse	
	That fallen vnto dyshoneste.	
	Thys prayer thow nat recuse,	108
	But Parce michi, domine.	108
	(10)	
	Nunquid oculi carnei tibi sunt aut sicut v homo et tu vides?	ridet
Are thy eyes fleshly, and doest thou	Whether thyne eyen flesshly be,	109
see like a	Or yef thow seest as seeth a man?	
man ?	Nay, forsooth, but oonly we	112
	Of outeward thynges beholding han;	112
	But inward thynges dost thow se, That non other may se ne can;	
	Therfore, lorde, I pray to the,	
	Warne me when I am mystan,	116
	That I may flee fro foule sathan,	
	That ys aboute to perysshe me.	
	Lese nat thow ones wan,	
	But Parce michi, domine.	120

(11)

Nunquid sicut dies hominis dies tui et anni tui sicut humana sunt tempora?

Whether thy dayes, lord, be syke

As mennys dayes, that dwellen here,
Or thy yeres be ought lyke

121 Are thy days and thy years [leaf 11] as men's,

r thy yeres be ought lyke

To the tymes of mannes yere?

124

That day a man ys fresshe and fryke, And sheweth forth a gladsom chere;

But to-morow he wexeth syke.

And haply borne forthe on a bere.

Thus mannes tyme ys in a were; But thy tyme stondeth in oo degre.

Therfore, I pray in thys manere:

Lorde, Parce michi, domine.

(12)

Vt queras iniquitatem meam, et peccatum meum scruteris, et scias quia nichil impium fecerim, cum sit nemo qui de manu tua possit eruere.

ffor to seche my wyckednesse,

And for suche thus all my synne,

Me thynketh hit commeth of grete hardnes,

With me, lorde, so to begynne.

133 that thou searchest out my sins f

Shewe thow forth thy grete goodnes,

And thyne hardshyp vp thow pynne.

Thynke opon the brytylnesse
That alwey worcheth me withynne.
And sythen I may nat fro the twyn,

And sythen I may not fro the twyn, Ne from thyne hande warysshed be, Though I offende more or mynne,

Euer Parce michi, domine.

Think of my weakness,

140 and forgive me my tres-

passes.

128

132

ine. 144

(13)

Manus tue fecerunt me, et plasmauerunt me totum in circuitu, et sic repente precipitas me.

Thyne handes, lorde, haue made me,
And formed me in shape of mañ,
And me thow settest in degre

145
Thou madest me, thou gavest me bliss;

Of grete nobley after than, 148

126	XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'	
thou tookst it again away from me when the devil de-	But whan I, thorough the sotylte, Deceyued was of foule sathan, Thow puttedyst me fro that dignite,	
ceived me.	Heldyng doune oñ my brayñ pañ. Nooñ other cause alege I cañ,	152
	But that synne hathe depryued me.	
	Now, for the blood that from the ranne, So Parce michi, domine.	156
	(14)	
	Memento, queso, quod sicut lutum feceris me, e puluerem reduces me.	t in
Thou madest	Haue mynde, therfore, I the pray, O thow god, almyghty kynge. Thynke thow madest me of clay,	157
me of clay, and wilt re- duce me to clay.	And in-to clay thow shalt me brynge. Suche ys thy myght, and hath be ay. And sythen thow madest furst all thynge,	160
	Who dare sey ayene the nay, To lette thy wyll or thy lykyng? There ys mañ olde ne yonge	164
	That stryue dar ayenst the. Therfore, nede maketh me synge,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine.	168
	(15)	
	Nonne sicut lac mulsisti me, et sicut caseum coagulasti?	nie
Thou madest me as soft as cheese.	Mylkedest nat me, lorde, as mylke, With nesshe blood whañ thow me made? And sytheñ, lord, that ylke,	169
	Ryght as the hardnesse of chese ys hade? My bloode ys nessher than ys sylke, In reyny weder that sone woll fade,	172
	And thus me made do dedys swylke With whyche my goste ys ofte vnglade. And thus in sinne full depe I wade, That nygh I droune thorow freelte. Although I can of synne nat sade,	176

Yet Parce michi, domine.

Pelle et carnibus vestisti me, ossibus et neruis Thou clothest me with compegisti me. flesh and

With flesshe and felle thow hast me cladde, 181

bones.

gain Heaven.

fleaf 11, bk.]

I refused thy mercy, which

always ready

and became a thrall of

sin.

to grant,

With bones and synewes togeder knyt.

Lyfe and mercy of the I hadde.

1.84 To gouerne me thow vaue me wyt. and badest To kepe thyne hestes thow me bade. me keep thy command-ments, and And sevdest that I shuld, for hit,

In heueñ blysse be euer gladde;

188 And vet I woll nat fro syn flytte,

But freelte, lord, so me smytte, Vnnethe kepte vs oone for me.

Nat for than I pray the yet ffor Parce michi, domine.

192

(17)

Vitam et misericordiam tribuisti michi.

Lyfe and mercy thow yaue me ay. 193 When I wold thy mercy craue,

Thow sevdest to me nat ones nav.

But glad was when I wold hit haue. 196

Thow were redy nyght and day With mercy, lord, me to saue;

But I denved hit alwey, So woodly syn made me to raue. 200

I seruyd syn, and was hys knaue. I dyd that was ayenst me.

Now, lord, when I am levde in grave. Than Parce michi, domine.

204

(18)

Et visitacio tua custodivit spiritum meum.

Thy vysitacion, lorde, hath kepte 205 Thy visitation has pre-My spyryte, that ys me withyñ. served me from sin. ffor when I wolde to syn haue lepte.

Than holy grace made me to blyn. And ofte tyme I have sore wept,

The more grace of the to wyn.

And thus with wepyng haue I wypt My soule, lord, from dedly synne.

212

Show me all my sins, that

I may keep my soul from the pains of Hell.

Why doest thou hide thy

face from me,

me as thy enemy ?

Lord, late me neuer werke begynne That in any wyse may displese the; And, som tyme though I fro the twyn, Yet, lord, Parce michi, domine. 216 (19)uantas habeo iniquitates et peccata, scelera mea atque delicta ostende michi. That wykednes all that I haue, 217 With my synnes all on an hepe, Shewe me hem, or I go to graue, 220 That I for hem may sore wepe; My soule, lord, that I may saue ffrom the pyt of hell so depe, Where synful soules tumble and raue, 224 In endeles woo ataketh good kepe. Toodes of hem doth crowde and crepe, In suche peynes the soules be. ffrom that place I may nat kepe 228 Withouten Parce michi, domine. (20)Cur faciem tuam abscondis, et arbitraris me inimicum tuum? 229 Why hydest thow fro me thy face That ys so full of all fayrenesse? I mene thys somtyme thy grace, 232 That thow withdrawest and veuest me lace. and persecute As thyne enemy thow dost me chace, Demyng me in grete hardnesse. Thy loue fayne wold I purchase Yef thow wolt me hit graunte of thy goodnes. 236 Now graunte me, lord, suche stedfastnes, That I may stande in oo degre,

(21)_s

And though I fall thorow brotylnes,

Lorde, Parce michi, domine.

Contra folium quod vento rapitur, ostendis potenciam tuam, et stipulam siccam persequeris.

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, I	Domine!'	12 9
Ayenst a leefe, that lyght ys to blowe, To me that am freel of kynde, Thy myght and power dost thow showe,	241	Thou provest thy power against a leaf.
As though I myght beres bynde. With wyndes ofte I ouerthrowe,	244	
Suche fondyng of the I fynde. I renne forthe fro rowe to rowe, Som-tyme before, somtyme behynde.	248	
I grope as a man that ys full blynde; But though I stomble, thow folowest m A, lord, though I to the be vnkynde, Yet Parce michi, domine!	ne. 252	
(22)		
Scribis enim contra me amaritudines	, et consumere	
me vis peccatis adolescencie mee.	253	EL 6703
Thow wrytest, lord, ayenst me Bytternesse, that I shall rede,	200	[leaf 12] Thou writest
At domesday, in syght of the,		bitternes« against me, which I shall
And all the worlde in length and brede	e. 256	read on Doomsday.
That I dyd in pryuyte,		
There opynly hit owte shall sprede;		
And thys thow wylt full well y-se,		
And distroy me for my wyked dede.	260	
But, lorde, to the I clepe and grede,		
As thow art lorde of all pyte,		
That day when I shall drope and drede,		
Than Parce michi, domine!	264	
(23)		
Posuisti in neruo pedem meum, et ob	seruasti omnes	
semitas meas, et vestigia pedum siderasti.	meorum con-	
In a synew thow hast my feet sette,	265	
With the whyche that I go shall,		est all my steps.
And all the pathes thow hast mette		
That euer I yede in wey or walle.	268	
There ys nothyng that the may lette		
To knowe my steppes grete and smalle	э,	
Wycked and worse, good and bette,		
I wote well thow considerest alle.	272	
POEMS (OXF.).	K	

Keep	
	sliding
and p	ardon
my fa	dling.

But, lorde, to the I clepe and calle; When I slyde, supporte thow me; And though somtyme I take a falle. Yet Parce michi, domine!

276

280

284

(24)

Qui quasi putredo consumendus sum, et quasi vestimentum, quod commeditur a tinea.

I shall be consumed like filth and moth-eaten cloth.

The whyche as rotyng shall consume, 277And fare as mowthe eten cloth:

And as from the fyre departeth fume.

So body and soule asundre goth.

I am made of a lothly hume:

Hit vs a thyng to man most loth.

Wherof than shulde I presume

To be hygh-herted or lyghtly wroth?

Though I be he that ofte mys doth. Of mercy art thow large and fre. As I leve that thys vs soth.

So Parce michi, domine!

288

292

296

(25)

Omo natus de muliere, breui viuens tempore, repletur multis miserijs, man that vs of a woman bore, 289

Man lives time, and is always in misery.

But lytell whyle he lyueth here, And enery day more and more

Replenysshed ys with synnes sere;

With hote and colde, and hunger sore,

Turmented vs from vere to vere,

And ofte hym wanteth goddys lore,

That gostly wey, he shuld lere. And thus he wandreth in a were.

As a man blynde, and may nat se.

Therfore I pray the, with louely chere,

ffor Parce michi, domine!

300

(26)

Qui quasi flos egreditur et conteritur, et fugit velud vmbra, et nunquam in eodem statu permanet.

The whyche spryngeth oute as a floure, That groweth fresshe, all men to glade;

301

He springs up like a flower,

AAV. Fely 300, or Turce mini, Donnine:		191
But when he with a sharpe shoure Ys smyten, begynneth sone to fade. So lese I the fayre coloure	304	
That god almyghty furst in me made, And thus I chaunge in euery shoure, And fle away ryght as a shade. And herewith I am full lade With synnes of diuerse degre.	308	and vanishes away like a shadow.
Of heuen blysse me nought degrade, But Parce michi, domine!	312	
(27) Et dignum ducis super huiuscemodi aperire o	011100	
tuos, et adducere eum tecum in iudicium.	cuios	
And, lord, thow lettest that hit be dygne Thyne eyen to opene vppon suche on,	313	And such a one thou thinkest
And hym thow shewest, by that sygne,		worthy to be called before
That he, with the, to dome shall gone.	316	thy tribunal.
Haue mercy on me, Ihesu benygne!		
Me thynketh myn hert ys harder than a ston,		[leaf 12, bk.]
And besyed with a spiryte maligne.		
My flesshe, the worlde, then ben my fone.	320	
These ben myn enemyes, lord, echone,		
Euer aboute to perysshe me.		
Lorde, for the loue of Mary and Iohn		
Euer Parce michi, domine!	324	
(28)		
Quis potest mundum de immundo conce	ptum	
semine? nonne tu, qui solus es?		
But, lord, who may clene make	325	Nobody can
Conceyued thyng of seede vnclene?		make clean a man con-
Nat thow? A, yes, I vnderstande,		ceived in sin.
Yef the lyste to make hit clene.	328	
Allas, I walke in a lake		
Of dedly synne that doth me tene.		
But, lorde, for the loue of Maryes sake,		
Amende the harme that I of mene.	332	
Y-wys I am nat worthe a bene,		
Of my sylfe, to commendyd be.		
Yet helpe me, lorde, with thy grace shene,	000	
And euer Parce michi, domine!	336	

	(29)	
	Breues dies hominis sunt, numerus mensi	um eius
	apud te est.	
The day	s of Mennes dayes ben shorte, beware,	337
man are	And therto take good entente;	
	ffor in respyte of tyme euermare	
	They beth nothyng equipolent.	340
and the	The number of hys mouthes are	
number	of Alwey at the lorde, verament.	
is fixed the Lor	DV	
	Tylf we be passed ingement.	344
	My wyttes, lorde, I haue myspent,	
	That thow me yaue to rewle with me.	
	But that I may ryse vp, and here repent,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	348
	(30)	
	Constituisti terminos eius, qui preteriri no	n pote-
	runt.	F
That ter	m Hys termes, lord, thow hast ordeyned,	349
passed	inless How longe he shalf now lyne here.	
by the v	That may be nat passe, ne be refreyned,	
	But by thyne absolute power.	352
	Thys sentence may be well susteyned	
	By a story, as we may here,	
	Howe Ezechye to deth-ward peyned,	
	And yet god addyd ouer xv yere.	356
	Hys kyndly tyme was comen full nere,	
	But for hys synnes the wepte he.	
	Lorde, yeue me grace, that I may here	
	Haue Parce michi, domine!	360
	(31)	
	Recede ergo paululum ab eo, vt quiescat,	donec
	optata veniat, et sicut mercenarij dies eiu	
Step a little away from him, and let him rest till the honr of	m 4 1 1 1 1 1	361
	om	
	till	
his deliv	er-	364
	And late hym lyue, yef hym lust ay.	
	Thys holde I, lorde, for the beste.	

AAV. 1 cty 500, or 1 wice mile, Domine		100
All disease from hym delay		
TyH the careyñ in erthe be keste.	368	
Allas, all thys world now ys myswrest,		
To carpe thys, lorde, ayenst the.		
Make me to thy mercy trest,		
ffor Parce michi, domine!	372	
(32)		
uis michi hoc tribuat, vt in inferno p	rotegas	
me, donec pertranseat furor tuus?		
The to me may yeue or graunte,	373	Who may grant me pro-
for lone or any affectioun,		tection from thy wrath?
ffro thy wrathe that ys duraunte,		
I may have my proteccioun?	376	
In helle yef I be concurraunte,		
There am I in subjectioun.		
In heuen though thow woldest me haunte,		
Yet there am I at thy correccioun.	380	
I may nat from thy respectioun		I cannot hide myself
By no way, lorde, hyde now me.		from thy
Therfore seye I thys lessoun		.,
Of Parce michi, domine.	384	
(33)		
Et constituas michi in quo recorderis mei.		
And thow woldest a tyme ordeyne	385	[leaf 13]
. In whyche thow woldest of me haue mynde,		
With som solace me to susteyne,		
That of thy blysse am so fere behynde.	388	
My woo from the can I nat leyne,		
But telle hit the, for thow art kynde.		
I am fast bounde here with a cheyne		I am fettered with a chain
Of dedly synne, full wele I fynde.	392	of sins;
But woldest thow, lorde, me vnbynde		unbind me, O Lord!
Thorough the vertew of thy pyte,		
Than were I glad, and lyght as lynde,		
To have Parce michi, domine.	396	
(34)		
Putasne mortuus homo rursum viuat?		
Trowest thow nat that man shal ryse	397	Man shall rise after
Ayene to lyfe, that dyed onys?		death.
Yes, and that in a wonderful wyse,		

134	XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine	,,
	With flesshe and felle, bloode and bones.	400
God shall take the good	Than shal god hys dome deuyse,	
with him;	And to hym take the good att ones;	
the damned souls shall suffer eternal	But dampned soules shullen sore gryse,	101
pains.	And youe a shoute with hydous grones. Thys make they shull wofull mones,	404
	All that shullen dampned be,	
	That I may dwelle withyn the wones	
	Of Parce michi, domine!	408
	(35)	
	Cunctis diebus quibus nunc milito, expecto	donae
	veniat immutacio mea.	donec
I expect my death every	All the dayes that I lyue here	409
death every day.	In thys wofull wepyng dale,	
	I byde alwey, from yere to yere,	
	Tyll I chaunge, as men do fall.	412
	Change I shall withouten were,	
	Nat ay be dwellyng in thys vale;	
	But, lorde, whan I am leyde on bere,	
	Hye vp to heuen my soule hale,—	416
	ffor there commyn neyther grete ne smale	
	But thow drawe hem, lorde, to the,—	
	That my soule be not in bale,	
	But Parce michi, domine!	420
	(36)	
	Vocabis me, et ego respondebo tibi; operi i	nanu-
	um tuarum porriges dexteram.	
On Dooms- day thou shalt call me,	Thow shalt me call at domesday,	421
and I shall	When thow art set on iugement,	
answer.	And I to the, wythouten delay, Shall yeue my answere verament.	424
	But, good Ihesu, to the I pray,	424
	Thynke alwey with full entent	
	Thow madest me of a clot of clay;	
	Thyne handwerke helpe, as thow furst ment;	428
	And with my thought I have myspent,	_
	Thorough malyce, here, of frealte:	
	Here, leof lorde, late me repente,	
	Dut Danes mishi Jamisa !	490

But Parce michi, domine!

for without thy help, no-

440 body can rise from his fall.

(37)

Tu quidem gressus meos dinumerasti, sed parce peccatis meis.

fforsothe, my steppys euerychone 433 Thou hast numbered all Thow nombred hast, and tolde hem all. my steps. But, lorde, to the I make my mone, Show me thy mercy, As thow art lord of henen and helf. 436

Vertues, lorde, though I have none.

Late thy grace in me now welle; ffor woo ys hym that stante alone,

And hathe noon helpe yef that he fall. My syn ys bytter than eysell or gall, And stynketh, lorde, in syght of the.

But nought for than to the I call

ffor Parce michi, domine!

444

(38)

piritus meus attenuabitur, dies mei breuiabuntur, et solum michi superest sepulcrum.

y spyryt shal be feble and feynt 445 My spirit will be feeble, When I am fallen in any age, My dayes, make I neuer so queynt, and my days

Shullen abrege and somwhat swage, And I ful sone shal be attevnt

Whan I have loste myn hote corage;

And though I dyed than as doth a seynt, A pyt shal be myne herytage; In erthe gete I non other wage Off all rychesse that man may se.

Whan I am closed in that cage, Than Parce michi, domine!

452 Nothing but the grave [leaf 13, bk.] will be left to me

shortened.

456

448

(39)

Non peccaui, et in amaritudinibus moratur oculus meus.

I haue nat synned wylfully 457 I have not sinned wil-Thorow my feynt, feble nature, fully, Ne greued the so greuosly,

Wherfore I shulde thys wo endure. 460

Thow punysshest me, and I not why, and yet thou punishest me. Passing resoun and good mesure.

100	MIX. 1 etg 000, or 1 area mente, Done	
It is my flesh, and not I, that grumbles against Thee.	Hit ys my flessħ, lorde, and nat I, That grochetħ ayenst thyñ hard reddure, But, lorde, as I am thy creature, And that ylke god that bougħtest me, So my care recouere and cure With Parce michi, domine!	464
	(40)	
	Dies mei transierunt, cogitaciones mee sunt, torquentes cor meum.	dissipate
My days are past,	My dayes, lorde, passed are, And olde I am, I am no faunt.	469
and my thoughts torment my heart.	My thoughtes wandre wyde whare, ffor they ben, lorde, full variaunte.	472
	Myne herte they greuy \bar{n} wonder sare, fror euer aboute hym they haunte. Thys maket \bar{n} me to drowpe and dare	
	That I am lyke a pore penaunte. Though I be, lorde, vnsuffisaunte, Any helpe to gete of the,	476
	Yet, for I am thy creaunte, Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	480
	(41)	
	Noctem verterunt in diem, et rursum post spero lucem.	tenebras
They keep me awake at night,	The nyght they turned in-to the day, for they maden me to wake all nyght.	481
	I myght nat slepe by no way, Suche thoughtes were in myn hert plyght.	484
and make me long for the	In derkenesse dymme as I so lay, Yet hoped I after the clere day lyght;	
daylight.	But thoughtys me so trobled ay, That I was than a wofull wyght. But, lorde, as thow art mekyl of myght,	488
	All euylt thoughtes put fro me, And that I of the may have a syght,	492
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	492
	(42)	

Si sustinuero, infernus dom*us* mea est; in tenebris straui lectulum meum.

•		
Lorde, yef I shall suffre thys grete disese, Hit woll me brynge vnto my graue. And yet ywys I may nat chese,	493	This disease of mine will bring me into my grave,
Whether I be kyng, knyght or knaue. In derkenesse dymme, all oute of ese, My lytell bed spred I haue; That bed shall I neuer lese,	496	
Though I wolde for angor raue,	500	
Tyll the day of dome, that of my graue		where I shall rest till
I shall aryse, and mo with me.		Doomsday.
My soule, lorde, I pray, thow saue		
With Parce michi, domine!	504	
(43)		
Putredini dixi, pater meus es; mater mea et s mea, vermibus.	oror	
	505	I said to filth,
"Thow art my fader of whom I cam,"		"Thou art my father,"
And vnto wormes sekurly,		and to the worms,
"Thow art my moder, thy son I am; 1 [1 MS. am I]	508	"You are my mother and
My systren all ye bene, for why,		my sisters."
None other then ye, forsoth I am."		
I shall call hem sustres, lo, for thy, ffor I shall roote amonge hem.	512	
Of the lowest erthe god made Adam,	012	
Of whyche my kynde I had, as he.		
Now, lorde, that art lykened to a lambe,		
So Parce michi, domine !	516	
(44)		
Vbi est ergo nunc prestolacio ¹ mea et pacie	ncia	[1 leaf 14]
mea i tu es, domine, deus meus.	517	
Where ys myñ abydyng nowe, And all my pacience therto?	517	My patience is gone.
They ben away, I wote neuer howe,		
ffor sothe me wanteth bothe two.	520	
Yef myn hert be styf and towe,		
To thanke the in wele and woo,		
Hit ys nat I, but only thow,		
Thow art my lord and god also.	524	

Helpe me, for thy grete pyte! I have y-nowgh, I pray the, hoo,

And Parce michi, domine!

(45)

mee consumptis carnibus adhesit os meum, et derelicta sunt tantummodo labia circa dentes meos.

528

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541

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553

My skin is wrinkled.

138

MO my skyň my mouth ys, lo, And cleued fast, as ye se may;

And wasted ys my flesshe also,

And bothe my lyppes ben away. my lips are shrunk, and my white

My whyte tethe, they ben full bloo.

Ye wolde be agaste, yef ye me say.

Myne heryng ys full clene ago,

Myne eyen ben dymme, $\flat at$ weren ful gray;

And I that was full stoute and gay,

ffull horyble am now opon to se.

Tyme ys that men now for me pray, ffor Parce michi, domine !

Miseremini, miseremini mei, saltem vos, amici mei, quia manus domini tetigit me.

Have pity on me, at least you, my friends,

and help me

with prayer, fasting, and

Reweth on me, reweth on me! My frendes namly, now helpeb at nede!

ffor I am there I may nat fle.

The hande of god ful sore I drede. And frendes, seeth that I am he,

Thys other day that on the erth yede.

Now helpe, yef that youre wyll be,

With prayer, fastyng, and almes-dede.

ffor these mowen best gete me mede

With Placebo And Dirige.

Herewith my soule I pray yow fede,

With Parce michi, domine!

(47)

Quare persequimini me sicut deus, et carnibus meis saturamini?

Why, as god, do ye pursewe

Me that suffre these sharpe shoures?

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'	139
Ye lat me peyne here in a peynfull pewe, That ye a place of grete doloures. 556	
Yow I chese for frendes trewe,	
And made yow myne executoures.	I made you my executors,
But tyme shall come that ye shall rewe	my caccatory,
That euer ye were to me so false treytoures. 560	
My good ye spent, as hit were youres,	and you will not spend a
But nat a peny yeuyn ye me.	penny to soothe my
Nowe for all suche faytoures,	pains.
Lorde, Parce michi, domine! 564	
(48)	
Quis michi tribuat, vt scribantur sermones mei?	
Who may graunte me thys boone, 565	
That my wordes wreten were	Who will let my words
In ensample of euerychoñ	be written down for
That hap may to ben in care? 568	others to take an ex-
ffor yef they wolden make moone,	ample by me in misery?
Eyther groche with hert sare	
Ayenst god, that sytteth in troone,	
Because, yef they wolden spare, 572	
And make nat so ferly fare,	
But take ensample wolden of me.	
Now, lorde, as I am but wormes ware,	
So Parce michi, domine! 576	
(49)	
Quis michi det vt exarentur in libro stilo ferreo,	
aut plumbi lamina vel celte sculpantur in silice?	
Who shall graunt me, or I be dede, 577	
To wryte hem by oon and oone,	
My booke with ynke blak or rede,	
Made with gumme and vermylone? 580	
Or ellys yet in plate of lede,	Or who will have them
Or grauen in harde flynte of stone,	[leaf 14, bk.] graven in
That all men, where euer they yede,	flintstone?
Myght otherwhyle loke theropon? 584	
I wolde my frendys and my foon	
Ensample take myght by me.	
As thow art thre, and god aloon,	
Now Parce michi, domine! 588	•

I know that my Saviour

and that I shall arise from my

and behold

liveth,

grave.

(50)

Scio enim quod redemptor meus viuit, et in nouissimo die de terra surrecturus sum, et rursum circumdabor pelle mea, et in carne mea videbo deum, saluatorem meum. I wote ryght well that myn redemptour 589 Lyueth vet, and lyue shall aye, And I shall ryse, I not what oure, Oute of the erthe on domysdaye, 592 And take to me my furst coloure, In flesshe and felle, clad on clay. And so shall I see my sauyour Deme the worlde in wondre aray. 596 The wikked than, withouten delay, As arowes, to helle they shullen fle. Lorde, that I go nat that way, So Parce michi, domine! 600

(51)

Quem visurus sum ego ipse, et oculi mei conspecturi sunt, et non alius.

608

612

613

616

I shall see him myself with these eyes of mine.

turi sunt, et non ains.

Whañ I mysylfe shall see in syght

With eyeñ clere, and hert[e] stable,

And knowe hym as god almyght,

That was for me man disparitable.

604

That was for me man disparitable, ShaH ther fore me noon other wyght Se my god that ys durable,

But I mysylfe, with eyen bryght, Shall hym beholde most honorable. O lord, that charyte that ys so amyable,

And bryght shynyng in thy mageste,
That syght to se, lord, make me able.

Thorow Parce michi, domine!

(52)

Reposita est hec spes mea in sinu meo. Thys hope ys in myn hert[e] sette,

I hope to recover from my disease,

That neuer from me shall dysseuere.

Thereyn my truste also ys knette,

The whyche to have now ys me leuere.

I hope to god that I shall gete

Of all diseases yet rekeuere,		
And se my lorde in hys turete,		and to see the Lord on
With whom I hope to dwelle euer.	620	his throne.
Though I be synfull, lorde, take me neuer		
In any thyng that may displese the.		
Thy blysse, late me haue for euer,		
Thorough Parce michi, domine!	624	
(53)		
uare de vulua eduxisti me, qui vtinam	con-	
sumptus essem, ne oculus me videret?		
lord, why leddest thow so me	625	I wish I had
A, Oute of the wombe that I was in?		been con- sumed in my
Wold god I had consumed be		mother's womb;
With-in myn oune moders skynne,	628	
That the eye, with whyche I se,		
Had nat seyn nomore ne mynne,		
That I myght in that degre		
Neuer haue wyste what had be synne,	632	then I should
ffor syn maketh me from the to twynne,		never have sinned.
That of nought madest thow me.		
Thy mercy, lord, make me to wynne		
With Parce michi, domine!	636	
(54)		
ffuissem quasi non essem, de vtero translatu	is ad	
tumulum.		
And, wold god, that I be hadde	637	
As a thyng that neuer was;		
ffor all with synne I am be-stadde,		
And euery day I do trespas.	640	But now I
No wonder though I be vngladde,		trespass every day.
And though I synge often allas;		
ffor pure woo I wexed madde,		
Nere goddys mercy my solas.	644	
Lo, lorde, lo, I am rygħt as		
A wytles mañ withouten the;		
But as thow of plente mercy has,		[leaf 15]
So Parce michi, domine!	648	
(55)		
Nunquid non paucitas dierum meorum fin	ietur	

breui?

nullus ordo, sed sempiternus horror inhabitans. The londe of myschvef and of derknes, 673 Where as dampned soules dwell,

676

680

Keep me, O Lord, from Hell. the land of darkness and misery.

142

Will not my life soon end?

I hate the vileness of the world.

Grant me, Lord, a short time to repent

my sins.

The londe of woo and of wrechednesse, Where ben mo peynes than tonge may telle,

The londe of dethe and of duresse, In whyche noon order may dwelle,

The londe of wepyng and of drervnesse, And stynkyng sorow on to smelle:

Now from that londe that cleped vs helle.

Worthy lord, rescue now thow me, So that I maye euer with the dwelle

Thorough Parce michi, domine!

Rescue me ever with

Here endeth the ix lessons of the Dirige, which

Yob made in his tribulation.

IVVV

[Donce 322, leaf 15.]

[19 stanzas of 8, 12 or 16, in alternates.]

[A picture comes here of a man lying in a field under a tree. A dejected-looking bird stands near, with a scroll coming from its mouth, on which are the words "Parce michi."—A. F. P.]

(1)

Here begynneth a tretyse of Parce michi, domine.

By a forest syde, walkyng as I went,

Disporte to take, in o mornyng,

A place I fonde shadyd with bowes I-bent, Y-set aboute with floures so swete smellyng.

I leyde me doune apon that grene,

And caste myñ eveñ me aboute:

I fonde there byrdys with feders shene,

Many oon sittyng apon a rowte.

Oon byrde there-by sate on a brere: Here federes were pulled, she myght nat fle.

She sate and sange with morning chere,

"Parce michi, domine!

Spare me, lorde, kyng of pyte,"

Thus seyng thys byrde in pore aray;

"My myrthe ys go, and my iolyte,

I may nat fle as other may.

My federes shene bene pulled me fro. My youth, my streyngthe, and my beawte.

Wher-thorough I take thys songe me to:

Parce michi, domine!"

now, to dwell Thee!

On my walk by a forest.

I found a nice shadowy 4 place, where I stopped.

Birds were 8 to and tro.

> Only one sat still and

sang:

12

20

Spare me. O'Lord!

16 I cannot fly like other birds, for I have lost my feathers.

fleaf 15, bk.]

When I herde thys mornyng song, I drewe to thys byrde nere and nere.

144	XXVI. A Tretyse of 'Parce michi, Domine!)
I asked that bird	And asked who had don thys wrong, And brought her in so drowpyng chere,	24
who had pulled out her feathers.	And who had pulled her feders awey, That shuld her bere from tre to tre,	
	And why she sange in her lay Parce michi, domine!	28
	(4)	
She answered "I'll tell you,	The byrde answered, and seyde me tyll, "Man, be in pese, for crystes sake.	
	Yef I shewe the myn hertys wyll,	32
though it will renew my grief.	Peynes me sore woll awake. Yef thow wolt take my worde in mynde, There shall no sorow be my lettyng,	92
	That I nyll holy myne herte vnbynde, And sothely telle the thyne askyng,	36
	Whyche were my feders that were so clere, And who hath pulled hem all fro me,	
	And why I syt singyng on brere Parce michi, domine!	46
	,	1
I had four	(5) ffeders iiij I had y-wys,	
feathers,	The two were set on every wynge.	
	They bare me breme to my blys,	
	Where me lust be at my lykyng.	44
Youth, Beauty, Strength, and	The furst was 'youth,' the ijde 'beawte,' 'Streyngth' and 'ryches' the other two.	
Riches.	And now they been, as thow mayst se,	
	All iiij federes fallen me fro.	48
Youth, my principal	My principall federe, youthe hit was.	
feather,	He bare me ofte to nysete;	
	Wherefore my songe ys now, allas, Parce michi, domine!	52
	(6)	
often brought me to folly,	In youthe I wrought folyes fele,	
and made me waste my time in sinful	My hert was set so hygh in pryde, To synne I yaue me euerydele,	
pleasures.	Spared I neyther tyme ne tyde.	56
	I was redy to make debate.	
	My lyfe stode ofte in mechyll drede;	

AAVI. A Treegse of Turce meeter, Donestee.		110
And my lykyng, to walke late, And haue my luste of sinfull dede. I was now here, I was now there, Vnstable I was in all degre.	60	
To hym I crye, that Mary bare,		
Parce michi, domine!	64	
	•	
(7)		
ffor Salamon seyth in his poyse, Thre weyes there beth full harde to knowe:		Solomon says three ways are difficult to be
Oon ys a shyp that sayleth in the see,		found: those of a
An egle an hygh, a worme in lowe.	68	ship, an eagle, and a worm.
And of the fourth, telle he ne can:		The fourth he cannot ex-
Hit ys so wonderfull in hys heryng,		plain, the way
The weyes of a yonge man,		man with a girl.
Whyche that ben here at theyre lykyng.	72	
And now hathe age y-smete me fro		Old age has deprived me
My pryncipal feder of Iolyte.		of Youth.
ffor all that euer I have mys-do,		my principal feather of Jollity.
Parce michi, domine!	76	•
(8)		
My ijde feder hyght 'bewte.'		My second
I helde my selfe so clere of shappe,		feather was Beauty.
That all the peple shuld loke on me,		1 fancied myself the
And worshyp me with hood and cappe.	80	handsomest man in the world;
My rudde was rede, my colour clere,		world,
Me thought neuer none so fayre as I,		
In all a contre, ferre ne nerre,		
In fetewres and shap so comly.	84	
My forhede large, my browes bent;		
My eyeñ clere, and corage bolde.		
My shappe ne myght no man amende,		
Me thought my self so fayre to beholde.	88	
And yet I was begyled in syght.		
The myrrour, lorde, disceued me.		but my mir-
Wherfore I aske, lorde, of thy myght,		ror deceived me.
Parce michi, domine!	92	
(9)		
Thys feder me bare full ofte to synne,		This feather
And pryncipally to lechery.		brought me to lechery,
Promer party to rectiery.		

L

And pryncipally to lechery. POEMS (OXF.).

	,	
	Clyppyng and kyssyng cowde I nat blynne,	
	Me thought hit erafte of curtesy.	96
(for a kiss is	A cusse, hit ys the deuylles gynne;	
the Devil's snare,)	Ofte of hit aryseth woo and wrake.	
	The deuyli with cusse many doth wynne.	
	I counseyle the, thow syn forsake.	100
[leaf 16]	Sampson loste hys streyngth therfore,	
by which Samson,	Dauid hys grace, for bersabee,	
David,	Tyl he eryed with wordes sore	
	Parce michi, domine!	104
	(10)	
Solomon,	Salamon, that worthy kyng,	
	ffull fayre he was from top to toe,	
	Wherfore in hys age yong	
	He was amabilis domino;	108
	That after he felle foule and sore	
	ffor luste of wemen that was hym nygh.	
	They fonned hym in hys age hore,	
	That he forsoke hys god on hygh.	112
and many others, lost	Nat oonly these, but many mo	
the grace of God.	Bewte hath begyled, ywys.	
G G G G	I wote well I am oon of tho;	
	I can the better telle thys.	116
Old age has deprived me	Nowe hathe age y-smyte me fro	
of this feather	My secund feder, that hyght beawte.	
•000	ffor all that euer I have mysdo,	
	Parce michi, domine!	120
	(11)	
	My thryd feder, 'streynght' hyght.	
Strength, my third feather,	My name was knowe on euery syde,	
,	ffor I was man of mochell myght,	
	And meny oon spake of me full wyde.	124
	To pryke and praunce I was full prest,	
	My streyngthe to kepe in euery place;	
	And euermore I had the best:	
	Suche was my hap, suche was my grace.	128
	My streyngth full ofte me drowe amys,	
	And torned me, lorde, clene fro the.	
	Now, kyng crouned in heuen blys,	
	Parce michi, domine!	132

(12)

Thys feder bare me beyonde the see, beyond the To gete me name in vncouth lande. sea, to get renown and To robbe and slee, had I devnte. riches. Ne spared I neyther for no bande. 136 Of holy churche toke I no veme, Bokes to take, ne vestement. There myght nothyng so moche me queme As robbe, or se an abbey brente. 140

With streyngth I gate me grete aray, Precious clothes, golde, and fee. I thought full lytell on that day,

Parce michi, domine!

(13)

When Nabugodonozor, ferse in fyght, Ierusalem had thought to wynne, And so he dyd with mayne and myght, And brent the temples that were theryn, And all the golde that he there founde, He toke with hym, and home gan ryde, Hym thought there shuld nothyng withstonde; Hys hert was sette so hygh in pryde,

TyH the kyng of myghtes moste Brought hym there that lowest was. And caught hym from hys ryall hoste, And drofe hym to a wyldernesse.

And there he lyuvd with herbe and rote. Walkyng euer on foot and on honde, Tyll cryste of mercy dede hym bote,

And hys pryson oute of bonde.

Than sayde thys kyng these wordys v-wys: 'AH thyng be, lorde, at thy pouste:

Mercy I crye, I haue do mys; Parce michi, domine!'

Whyle I had my streyngth at wyll. ffull many a mañ I dyd vnreste. They that wold nat myne heste fulfy#, My knyfe was redy to hys breste.

often bore me

144

Nebuchadnezzar plum dered Jerusalem, and carried away

with him all 148 the gold of the temple.

He thought nothing could 152 resist him.

> But God drove him into a wilderness.

156

where he lived on roots

till Christ had mercy 160 upon him.

164

While 1 had strength, I often harmed and threatened others

	148	XXVI. A Tretyse of 'Parce michi, De	mine!'
	Now I am blind and lame.	And nowe I syt here blynde and lame, And croked ben my lymes all.	
		I was full wylde, I am now tame.	. 172
	Old age has	Thys feder of streyngth ys fro me fall. And now hathe age smetyn me fro	172
	plucked this feather from my wing.	My thryd feder of iolyte.	•
		ffor all that euer I haue mysdo,	
		Parce michi, domine!	176
		(15)	
	My fourth	My fourth feder, 'Ryches' was.	
	Wealth; to get which	To make hit shyne, I trauayled sore.	
	I travelled much about,	I wente in many a perylous place,	7.00
	[leaf 16, bk.]	Well ofte my lyfe was nygh for-lore.	180
		By dale, by doune, by wodes syde, I boode many a bytter shoure;	
		In salt see I sayled well wyde	
		ffor to multiply my tresoure.	184
	and frequently did wrong.	With false sleyghtes I gate my good,	
		In Couetyse I grounded me.	
		Thesu, for thy precious blood,	
		Parce michi, domine!	188
		(16)	
		When I was seker of golde y-nowgh,	
		I gan to ryde abowte well faste.	
		I purchased moche, and god wote howgh. I wende thys lyfe wolde euer hauc laste.	192
	I had splen-	I lete me bylde castelles and toures,	192
	did castles and towers built,	Withoute y-warded with stronge dyches,	
		Withyn y-bylde halles and bowres;	
		There was no toure my castell lyche.	196
		In thys was set all my lykyng,	
	and turned wholly from	And torned me, lorde, holy from the.	
	God.	To the I crye now, heuen kyng,	200
		Parce michi, domine!	200
		(17)	
	When I was on the sum- mit of my fortune, I lost all my	When I was most in all my flowres, And had aboute me wyfe and chylde,	
		I lost my catell and my toures.	
	property,	Then wexed myn hert in party mylde.	204

AAVI. A Treeyse of Turce meete, Domin	e:	149
CateH felle fro me sodeynly;		
Ryght as hit came, hit went awey.		as quickly as I had got it.
Meñ seyeñ 'good geteñ vntrewly,	200	No 3rd heir can inherit
The iijde eyre browke hit ne may.'	208	ill-gotten goods.
I was full wylde, I am now tame.		
ffortune hath pulled ryches fro me.		
Your wreche, lorde, I cannat blame.		
Parce michi, domine!	212	
(18)		
Iob was rycher then euer was I,		Job was richer than I,
Of golde, syluer, and oper good;		and he lost all his fortune,
Hit felle hym fro, and that sharply,		
As dyd the water out of the flood.	216	
Hym was nat lefte so mekyH a clothe		
Hys naked body for to hele.		
Hym lacked crostys of a lofe,		
When hym lyste etc in tyme of mele.	220	
And yet he helde vp then hys hande,		Yet he thanked God
And seyde, 'hygħ god in mageste,¹		for his send- ing.
I thanke the of thy swete sande.		
Parce michi, domine!'	224	
(19)		
Now Parce michi, domine!		Spare me, O Lord,
My ioy, my myrthe, ys all agone.		
Youthe, streyngth, and my beawte,		
My federes fayre, be fall me fro.	228	my feathers are gone.
Wherto ys a mañ more lyke,		
Then to a floure that spryngeth in may?		Man withers like a flower."
All that lyuen, bothe pore and ryche,		
Shall dye, vnknowyng of her day."	232	
I set me doune apon my kne,		I knelt down and thanked
And thanked thys byrde of here good lore.		the bird for her lesson.
I bethought me well, of thys worde parce,		
Was bale and bote of gostly sore.	236	
Now parce, lorde, and spare thow me,		'Spare me, O Lord,' is a
Thys ys a worde that sone geteth grace.		word to get mercy.
And parce geteth goddys pyte,		-
And sheweth to vs hys blessed face.	240	

Amen.

Line 222 is repeated after line 223.



GLOSSARIAL INDEX.

a. interi. ah! 114/201. azeynbyynge, ger. redeeming. a, indef. art. 1/1, 6/153. 116 282. abas, adv. down, 111/122. agylte, rb. offend, 45/165. abate, vb. 59/123, 61/12. ake, vb. ache, 67/86. ableth, vb. 3. sg. enables, 2/53. aknowe, pp. be a-, acknowledge, aboue, prep. above, 23/16, 101/19; confess, 86/19. al, adj. pron. 2/34, 42, 7/39, 61/35, adv. 14/153, 79/191. 64/10, 66/59, 119/371; adv. 93/ aboute, adv. 51/17, 98/77, 100/143; prep. 116/286. 135, 105/70. abyde, vb. abide, 34/96, 114/233, alas, interj. 119/387. aldre, pron. gen. pl. of all, 108/10. 120/399. al-gate, adv. always, 81 77. abve, vb. buy, redeem, 67/96; abyze, 46/210, 67/96. all, adj. 10/44. abyzed, pp. bent, subdued, 23/29. allas, interj. alas, 67/95, 119/365, abyte, sb. a monk's habit, 80/46, 84/161. alle, adj. pron. 2/27, 37, 12/100, accuseb, vb. 3. sg. accuses, 16/4; 89/24. Alleluya, sb. alleluia, 46/2. accusyd, pp. 120/409. allow, rb. acknowledge, 106/103; acheson, sb. trouble, 57/76. acorde, vb. agree, 91/63; -b, pl. -ed, pp. 70/26. 33/78; acordid, pt. 92/97. almes, sb. alms, 29,69, 76,95; acountes, sb. pl. accounts, 37 97. almesdede, sb. alms-deed, 30/89, adoun, adv. down, 51/38, 102/49. 31/114, 34/5, 84/163. adyte, vb. indict, accuse, 92/99. afflay, vb. afflict, 16/38. almysty, adj. almighty, 107/1, 111/ 113. afray, sb. terror, 118/336. alon, adj. alone, 66,80; -e, 113/ after, adv. 5/124, 13/135, 64/16; 195; adv. 27/4. prep. 5/140, 19/162, 26/60; conj. als, adv. as, 111/129. 15/19, 16/56, 20/168, 61/22; adj. also, adv. 11/53; conj. 53/101. 70/48. Altere, sb. altar, 103/xxiii. afterward, adv. 55/10, 80/45, 107/ alway, adv. always, 26/54, 37/91, 93 145. 125. aftur, prep. for, 39/151. alyzede, pp. put, 58/103. agast, adj. aghast, 64/103. amende, vb. amend, 6/163, 19/134, agayn, adv. again, 18/103; azayn, 38/135, 47/13, 52/46, 62/57, 85/ 186, 86/28. 48/67, 86/30. agaynes, prep. against, 43/86. amendement, sb. amendment, 63/ agen, adv. again, 4/92, 35/35, 52/44, 92/108; prep. against, 3/75, 12/ amendes, sb. amends, 34/5; -is, 75/84, 118/342. 107, 14/3, 108/11.

agens, prep. against, 10/33, 72/95,

ageyn, prep. against, 114/230, 115/

azeynbyere, sb. redeemer, 117/300.

81/56, 108/34.

259.

amerous, adj. amorous, 93/125.

-es, prep. among, 98/70.

among, prep. 11/73, 20/188, 54/ 125, 77/139; adv. together, 69/16;

-e, adv. meanwhile, 120/400;

amountes, vb. 3. sq. amounts, 22/233. amvs, adv. amiss, 73/13. an, indef. art. 3/75. an, prep. in, 56/15. and, conj. 1/3; if, 2/43, 49, 7/37. ande, sb. mind, 115/264. angels, sb. pl. 35/10, 40/191, 47/11, 77/139, 110/99, 111/119; gen. pl. 23/21, 42/50, 49/75, 94/180, 107/ anger, sb. 67/101. anguysche, sb. anguish, 92/90. another, pron. 5/147; another, 19/147164; **a-no**þer, adj. 29/79. anoved. pp. annoyed, injured. 108/33. anovied, 23/26. answerd, vb. pt. answered, 94/162. **answere**, vb. answer, 6/153, 42/61, 86/19, 115/236; a. for, 31/16; a. of, a. for, 33/72; sb. 90/55. any, adj. 21/200. apayre, vb. impair, injure, 10/18, 36/41. apece, adv, a-piece, 52/42. apeche, vb, impeach, accuse, 100/ 136. apele, vb. accuse, 33/71, 46/193, 64/111. apere, vb. appear, 46/192. apert, adv. openly, 52/54, 71/87. appyl, sb. apple, 41/22. ar, vb. pl. are, 113/197; are, 5/122, 14/149, 67/107, 99/122; aren, 110/99; arn, 5/126, 13/135, 75/ 69, 111/105, 116/268; art, 2. sg. 8/35, 9/79, 28/26, 35/30, 42/66, 85/187. areue, vb. bereave, 81/62. argument, sb. 29/73, 105/72; -is, $\bar{p}l.~86/39$; -s, pl.~114/223. ari;t, adv. aright, 36/63. arm, sb. (limb), 68/139; -es, pl. 65/35, 93/149. armes, sb. pl. (weapons), 8/51, 59/ 116, 133, 70/52. array, sb. 6/2; -e, vb. 14/151, 40/180. **articles**, sb. pl. 43/100. as, adv. 4/110; conj. 61/27, as if, 16/52, 25/14, 91/81, as—as, 4/105. **aschamed**, adj. ashamed, 111/107.

ases, vb. cease, 10/21, 50/4; -e,

62/54.

ashamed, adj. 9/4, 94/173aske, vb. ask, 7/43, 29/68, 36/47, 49/97, 76/99; asken, pl. 29/66; askeb, 3. sg. 56/39, 74/50. askuse, vb. excuse, 17/83. aspie, vb. espy, 10/45. aspize, vb. espy, 91/66; -d, pp. 23/28.**aspye**, vb. espy, 27/62, 51/36; -d, pp. 52/66.aspyzed, vb. pt. espied, 58/98. assaile, vb. assail, 22/237, 27/12. assay, sb. trial, 9/77; vb. es say, try, 15/30, 19/158, 66/61, 74/57; -e, vb. 31/6. assayle, vb. assail, 8/75, 12/84, 13/ 116, 59/125, 80/27. Assencioun, sb. Ascension Christ, 102/55. assent, sb. 1/4, 51/12, 55/2; vb. 102/40; -e, vb. 80/24. asses, vb. cease, 10/30, 98/85. assise, sb. assize, session, size, justice, 6/164, 9/13, 10/25, 36/65. assoyle, vb. absolve, 95/206: -b. 3. sq. resolves, 81/50. astat, sb. state, condition, 72/107, 111/122; -e, sb. estate, class, condition, rank, possession, 19/ 151, 161, 22/241, 25/23, 63/73, 68/121, 79/14, 84/153, 91/76, 99/ 109, 100/149. aswage, vb. assuage, 59/117. at, prep. 4/94, 7/25, 20/172. ataynt, pp. attainted, convicted, 57/61. atent, sb. intent, 50/108, 102/34. ateynt, pp. attainted, 69/9. atte, prep. at, 46/xi, 110/77. attent, sb. intention, 73/19, 80/92. atwo, adv. in two, 92/117, 101/12. atwyn, adv. in two, asunder, 116/ 286; atwynne, 83/144. auaunce, vb. 7/44, 24/43; -b, 3. pl. 99/122; -ment, sb. 120/417; auaunsed, pp. 63/85. auayle, vb. avail, 12/91, 28/25. aueryce, sb. avarice, 96/14. auxt, vb. ought, 60/151. auisement, sb. advisement, deliberation, 1/7. auncetres, sb. pl. ancestors, 13/135. aungel, sb. angel, 83/119, 102/46,

120/395.

aunsetres, sb. pl. ancestors, 72/118.

auntre, vb. adventure, venture, 68/140.

auyze, vb. vie, 81/67.

auyse, vb. advise, consider, 5/141. 6/162, 88, 24/45, 36/57, 52/45, 103/68; -d, pp. 93/126.

avowe, vb. avow, repeat openly, 17/87.

avyse, vb. warn, 17/81.

away, adv. 20/166, 195, 40/175, 94/176, 114/247, 248.

awayte, sb. await, 71/83.

awe, sb. 15/18, 36/59; stonden a., stand in a., 23/37, 49/83, 57/50, 63/90.

awen, adj. own, 7/34, 31/120, 95/ 194, 97/34, 99/120.

ay, adv. always. 10/23, 20/169, 23/ 22, 34/100.

ayber, adj. pron. 49/78, 105/60.

bad, vb. pt. bade, 32 24, 33 64, 34/ 95, 104/35; -e, 107/125.

bak, sb. back, 41/40. bake, sb. bread, 105/66.

bakebon, sb. backbone, 65/33. balance, balaunce, sb. 62/37.

bande, sb. pl. bands, 109/46, 115/238.

banere, sb. banner, 71 64.

bank, sb. bench, 6/5. bare, adj. 107/5; sb. pl. 26/37.

bare, vb., pt. bore, 41/40, 50/103. bargayn, sb. bargain, 67/96, 82 92, 120/418.

barge, sb. 3/65.

batayle, sb. battle, 12 87, 20 186, 22/3, 39/143, 59/111, 80, 25.

bay, vb. bark at, 35/21.

bay, sb. extremity, distress, 8 76, 22/238, 33/54.

bayte, vb. 3. sg. baits, attacks, 71/82.

be, prep. by, 1/7, 113/181. be, vb. 1/1, 20, 2/47, 51, 55, 7/31, 13/132, 15/29, 31/120, 43 88, 53/ 89, 61/32, 78/158, 159: pp. 117

bed, sb. 7/25, 9/82, 31, 9, 115/266. bed, vb., pt. ordered, 29/63, 44 144,

74/34, 106/102.

bedded, pp. made the bed, 115 266. bede, sb. prayer, 76/102; vb. ask, 20/170.

bede, vb., pt. ordered, 1/22, 3/70,

12/106, 38/114, 45/181, 89/112, 97/36, 105/48.

bedeb, vb. 3. sg. orders, 91/78.

before, adv. 64/16. began, vb., pt. 70/47.

begeten, vb. make, produce, 8,59. beggere, sb. beggar, 46/191.

begyled, pp. cheated, 69/18.

begynne, vb. begin, 11/59, 108/31; -b, 3. sg. 37/76; begynnyng, ger. 2/47, 116/279.

bezete, sb. gain, profit, 55/12. bekenyng, sb. beck, 72/124.

beme, sb. trumpet, 111/119.

ben, vb. be, are, 31/116, 50/120, 57/45, 62/59, 69/9, 15, 99/120, 107/2; -e, 19/145; pp. 6/9.

bende, rb. bend, 15/34, 27/71, 69/12, 78/161, 79/194, 82/105, 98/82.

benden, vb., pt. bent, 41/31. benefice, sb. 39/161, 120/417; -s, pl. 61/28.

benefys, sb. 32/33.

bent, vb. 3. sg. bends, 16 58; pp. 3/69, 81, 29/74, 51/10, 65 38, 92/94.

berd, sb. beard, 65/53.

bere, vb. bear, take, depose, 26 44, 27/62, 67/95, 77/148, 108 28, 109/ 41, 115/262.

berelis, sb. burial, grave, 117/320. beren, vb. bear, 66 50, 59, be. bereb, vb. 3. sg. 13/139, 142, 31/17,

66/60, 90/40, 96/3: bereth, 1/1, 4/97.

berkande, ppr. barking, pursuing, 22/238.

bersell, sb. bristle, 48/38. berbe, sb. birth, 81 53.

besoust, pp. besought, 73 16. best, adj. sup. 21/226, 53/84, 114/

204; adv. 47 34, 74 32; sh. 67/ 102. best, sb. beast, 15/24, 29 80, 56 28;

-es, pl. 45/174, 105/76.

bestayle, sb. cattle, 11 67. besye, vb. busy, 88 85; -n. 70 42. besynesse, sb. business, 65/28, 79/13.

bet, adj. comp. better, 81/66.

bete, vb. beat, 26/55, 35/14, 54/114, 91/79, 119/365; pp. 94/155; -n, pp. 92/114; -b, 3. sg. 73/14. beter, adj. comp. better, 33/65, 42/

63, 54/133, 76/104; adv. 60/151.

154beth, vb. are, 2/26. betok, vb. pt. committed, delivered, 22/246. betray, vb, 32/38. be-tyme, adv. betime, 61/32, 62/56. betyng, sb. beating, 44/136. be-wepe, vb. weep over, lament, 103/67. bewrye, vb. betray, discover, 120/ 416. bewte, sb. beauty, 75/66. bid, vb, 40/5; bidde, 20/180; bidden, 84/149; biddes, 3. sg. 90/ 51; biddest, 95/187; biddeb, 3. sg. 18/115, 38/105, 90/45, 49, 50; biddis, 3. sg. 90/52, 54; biddiþ, 3. sg. 79/193, 91/85. bigyled, vb. pt. cheated, 95/186. bigynne, vb. begin, 12/102. bige, vb. buy, 11/56. bille, sb. bill, account, 24/70, 54/ bischop, sb. bishop, 39/155, 83/ 123. bischopriche, sb. bishopric, 39/ biternesse, sb. bitterness, 108/35, 112/147, 115/256, 118/344. bitray, vb. betray, 17/86. blades, sb. pl. 22/6. blake, adj. black, 34/2, 78/157, 88/88, 110/78. blame, sb. 10/21, 43/82, 61/4, sin, 99/106; vb. 16/42, 44; -d, pp. 9/7, 111/105. blasande, ppr. blazing, 6/12. **blede**, vb. drop, 6/166, 57/70. blenche, vb. blench, 112/148. blende, vb. blind; -s, 3. sg. 23/20. blent, pp. blinded, 73/23, 105/54. blessed, pp. 96/1; blessid, pp. 96/17. blete, vb. bleat, 39/158. blis, sb. bliss, 2/28, 28/47, 96/9, 78/ 184; blisse, sb. 4/114, 24/63, 31/ 117, 53/98, 73/26; vb. bless, 93/ 133, 96/9; -d, pp. 53/91. blo, sb. renown, 54/126. blod, sb. blood, 6/166, 8/69, 47/15, 81/57, 84/153. blome, vb. bloom, 3/62. blood, sb. 91/83. blossemed, adj. blossomed, 6/1.

blowe, vb. blow, 26/59; -n, 3. pl.

111/119; pp. 35/30.

blynne, vb. cease, 67/85, 89/15. 117/330; blynnyng, ger. 116/ blvs. sb. bliss, 33/79, 95/199, 113/ 176; blysse, 118/346. bode, vb. pt. 6/1. boden, pp. ordered, 111/115. bodily, adv. 23/23; -e, 25/8. body, sb. 10/22, 30/95, 35/14, 40/ 182, 44/120, 51/15, 57/54, 64/4, 105/68; gen. 66/50; -es, pl. 81/ 75; -ly, adv. 25/1, 16, 26/40, 32/ 23, 75/80; -lye, 25/24, 26/32, 48, 56, 27/64, 72. bost, pp. bought, 118/360, 374. bok, sb. book, 111/111; -es, pl. 11/ 74, 82/108. bold, adj. 6/157, 24/57, 53/76, 95/ 201; -e, adj. 77/126, 102/29; adv. 90/40; -ely, adv. 12/84. bon, sb. bone, 48/54, 66/49, 107/ 114; -e, pl. 93/140; -es, pl. 75/ 67. bond, vb. pt. bound, 47/31. bond, sb. bondsman, 97/32; -e, adj. bound, in a servile state, 21/107: sb. 82/87.bonet, sb. bonnet, part of a sail, 28/28. boon, sb. bone, 119/379. boote, adv. out, 6/1. bord, sb. board, 7/25, 37/73, 60/ bore, sb. bore, hole, 4/95. bore, pp. born, 102/41.born, pp. 101/10, 113/169; borne, 20/179, 31/13, 93/149. borwe, vb. borrow, 44/121, 72/96; -d, pp. 2/38, 38/129; -b, 3. sg. 63/75; -re, sb. gen. borrower, 98/76. bosom, sb. 117/306. bost, sb. boast, 59/123; -e, vb. 70/ 26, 97/43. bosum, sb. bosom, 119/382. bot, conj. but, 45/148, 56/40; -e, 108/18, 109/60, 63. botemeles, adj. bottomless, 67/82. boten, vb. pt. pl. bit, 41/32. bothe, pron. both, 6/164; bobe,

65/44, 91/70; b. . . and, conj.

12/110, 17/75, 66/67.

blynd, adj. blind, 21/215, 22/7; sb.

35/26, 77/134.

pl. 104/39; -e, adj. 11/77; sb. pl.

botme, sh. bottom, 17/99. boust, vb. pt. bought, 34/92, 41/28, 49/100, 73/12, 74/46; pp. 56/28, 76/96, 85/12; -e, pt. 43/90, 86/37. boun, vb. bow, 109/47. boun, adj. ready, 50/6.

bounden, pp. bound, 54/134, 92/

boundes, sb. pl. bounds, 21/212,

222. bounte, sb. valour, 51/18.

boures, sb. pl. bowers, abodes, 84/ 176.

bow, vb. 65/45, 88/87; -e, 43/78, 84, 54/133, 72/124, 92/116; -ed, pt. 70/27.

bow, sb. 41/31, 92/94; -e, 3/69, 81. 16/58, 53/87; -es, pl. 65/38. boyst, sb. box, 105,65.

braken, vb. pt. pl. broke, 41/31.

bran, sb. 70/49. brayn, sb. brain, 64/14, 67/112.

bred, sb. bread, 44/120, 70/49, 104/ 37, 42, 105/66, 68.

brede, sb. breadth, 4/102, 60/158. breke, vb. break, destroy, 13/127, 35/19, 44/114, 63/99, 82/87, 83/ 132, 106/84, 119/384; -p, 3. pl. 105/62; brekyng, ger. 106/94.

breme, adj. blazing, 11/62. brenne, vb. burn, 44/143, 54/115, 84/176, 103/63; -b, 3. sg. 11/62, 44/141; brennyng, ppr. 797, 102/26.

brent, pp. burnt, 8/70, 50/111, 111/

110, 113/192.

brest, vb. burst, 41/36, 54/133. brest, sb. breast, 41/32, 48/66, 65/25. brehe, sb. breath, vapour, 72/123, 118/333.

brebere, sb. gen. pl. brethren's, 97/34.

brefered, sb. brotherhood, 45/167. breberen, sb. pl. brethren, 43,88, 75/80, 85 186, 104/21.

brethern, sb. pl. brethren, 116/270.

brewe, vb. brew, 81/80. brist, adj. bright, 6/12, 35/9, 84/ 176.

brost, pp. brought, 107/6, 117/315, 119/376.

broken, pp. 12/92, 18/119, 47/7, 52/ 43, 105/69.

brondes, sb. pl. swords, 65/38. brondes, sb. pl. firebrands, 28/37. brotel, adj. brittle, 110/92. brobelyng, sb. wretch, 46/191.

brother, sb. 89/11, 101/22; brober, 35/15

brought, pp. 8/63; brougt, 8/76, 9/77, 22/238.

browded, pp. embroidered, 84/155. brydell, $s\overline{b}$. bridle, 3/85.

bry3t, adj. bright, 34/2, 43/92, 44/ 141, 47/20, 65/38, 78/157, 101/ 159; bryatnesse, sb. brightness, 119 386.

bryng, rb. bring, 22/236, 26/45; -e, 1/12, 5/131, 24/70, 40/191, 63/ 79; -en, pl. 66/52, 84/152, 92/ 100; -ep, 3. sg. 10/42, 14/153, 36/61, 72/121.

brynne, sb. burn, 28/37. buffete, rb. buffet, beat, 82/90. burgh, sb. borough, 10/34, 66/54. burnysche, vb. burnish, clean,

34 2. burye, rb. bury, 38/127.

buschel, sb. bushel, 100/156. buske, sb. wood, 6/1.

but, conj. unless, 6/155, 24/62, 68/ 138, 80/2, 84/165; b. for, 8/72; but, adv. only, 6, 10, 7/26, 106/83. buxom, adj. compliant, 96/18.

buxomness, sb. compliance, 72/ 121.

buyrnes, sb. pl. men, 6/5. by, prep, 1/4, 10/38. bycom, vb. pt. became, 42/52; -e,

101/22. byd, vb. bid, 25/27, 43/79, 83, 53/

91, 76/118, 89/23, 101/160; byddis, 3. sg. 47/32; byddyng, sb. command, 41 31, 98 82.

byde, vb. bide, stay, continue, suffer, 17/99, 37/85, 82/89, 83/129, 93/136, 96/27, 99/116, 114/221: -es, 3. sg. 65/46; bydyng, sb. biding, 116/272.

bye, vb. buy, 5/121, 28/20, 32/45, 118/358, 120/418.

byfelle, rb. pt. befell, happened,

byfore, prep. before, 20/188, 39/ 168, 119, 389; adv. 41, 9, 65/37, 76/101, 88 79.

bygan, vb. pt. began, 114/231.

bygyled, pp. cheated, 89/12. bygynne, rb. begin, 13/115, 58/107, 75/73, 81, 78/162; -b, 3. sg. 12/88. byte, vb. bny, 31/118, 43/98, 57/67, 83/138. byzete, sb. gain, profit, 39/150. by-3onde, prep. 51/25. byhende, adv. behind, 46/200, 74/ 49; byhynd, 86/16; -e, prep. 27/66, adv. 78/171. byhyue, sb. behoof, 108/20. byknowe, adj. known, 26/57. **bylapped**, pp. wrapped, 117/302. bvlde, vb. build, 90/35, 96/19; pp. 98/63. byleue, sb. belief, 29/75, 105/46, 50, 71, 107/114; vb. believe, 5/125, 102/54, 117/299. byleuep, vb. 3. sg. is left, remains, 115/254. byloued, adj. beloved, 19/148. bylyue, sb. belief, 106/96. bynde, vb. 101/21, 112/143, 115/ byseche, vb. beseech, 115/244, 118/ byshap, sb. shepherd, 39/155. bysyde, adv. besides, 37/84, 82/91; bysydes, prep. 115/258. byte, vb. bite, 3/85. bypenk, vb. bethink, 102/42. bytwen, prep. between, 1/15, 34/ 90, 39/160, 82/100. bytyme, adv. betime, 38/111.

caas, sb. case, cause, 95/194. cacche, vb. catch, 93/148. cake, sb. 105/68. calde, vb. pt. called, 67/106. call, vb. 50/1, 87/70; -e, 21/207, 37/95, 42/55, 61/31, 84/148; c. as, consider as, 44/131, 134; -en, 18, 105; -ep, 3. sq. 90/43. calt, pp. called, 100/151. can, vb. 16/47, 17/69, 89, 42/63; know, 58/94, 70/43; -st, 42/62. candel-list, sb. candle-light, 100/

101/157. carayne, sb. carrion, 91/88.

care, sb. 26/36.

cas, sb. case, condition, 36/42, 85/ 187.

candel-styke, sb. candle-stick,

cast, vb. 51/38, 77/147, 110/85, 86; exert, 52/47; consider, 53/82; contrive, 57/66, 76, 63/98; pt. 109/67; pp. 69/4, 94/176, 95/

194; caste, 39/137, 40/175, 86/ 40; -b, 3. sg. 91/79. castell, sb. castle, 54/118; castels,

pl. 51/19, 57/49. catell, sb. cattle, 57/54.

cause, sb. 11/75, 14/161, 164, 82/ 91, 84/156, 108/38; -es, pl. 73/9. certayn, in c., adv. certainly, 28/17.

certeyn, adj. certain, 82/111.

chace, vb. chase away, 85/189. chaf, sb. chaff, 10/47.

chalenge, vb. challenge, censure, 109/41. chamberes, sb. pl. castles in the

air, 90/35. chambre, sb. chamber, 8/64, 21/

champion, sb. 80/25; champioun, 59/78; champyons, pl. 13/144. charge, sb. 3/59, 24/45, 46, 31/17,

chargeth, vb. 3. sg. charges, bids, 9/3.

charite, sb. charity, 1/23, 28/39, 81/70; charitee, 4/113, 6/159, charmes, sb. pl. charms, 70/51;

vb. 3. sq. charms, withdraws, 23/ charyte, sb. charity, 22/247, 33/61,

65/32, 76/111. chas, vb. chase, 45/174, 77/150,

87/61. chaste, adj. 90/52.

chastise, vb. 3/77, 39/140, 46/185; chastice, 109/48, 111/125. chastite, sb. chastity, 79/6.

chastyng, ppr. chastening, 44/139. chastyse, vb. chastise, 42/55, 52/ 66, 60/162; -d, pp. 54/118.

chaunce, sb. chance, 8/47, 14/167; accident, 3/73.

chaunceller, sb. chancellor, 61/9. chaunge, sb. change, 10/43; vb. 16/53, 21/228, 56/26; -n, pl. 79/ 15; -b, 3. sg. 14/146. chef, sb. chief, 64/15; adj. 71/81,

90/36.

cheke, sb. cheek, 90/53. chekkys, sb. pl. check, 72/108. chep, adv. cheap, 36/53.

chepen, vb. buy, 70/23. cherche, sb. church, 32/27

cherische, vb. cherish, 57/64, 60/

162, 80/41, 81 76; -b, 3, pl. | 58/89. chery, sb. cherry, 14 145. ches, rb., pt. chose, 11/54. chese, vb. choose, 4/111, 7/13, 14 167, 60/153, 77/152. chese, sb. cheese, 110,83. chete, sb. cheat, 38 118. cheualrous, adj. chivalrous, 11 71. cheuentayn, sb. chieftain, 20, 193. cheynes, sb. pl. chains, 47 5. chide, vb. 82 95. chief, adj. chief, 13/124. child, sb. 15/22, 54/113, 85 181; -e, 29,59, 90,39; pl. 96,21; childre, pl. 22/247; -n, 45/179. 105/73. chirche, sb. church, 13/143, 19/ 137, 143, 25 27, 44 128, 106 81. chiste, sb. chest, 101/158. chiualry, sb. chivalry, knights, 11 69. chosen, pp. 94/175, 100/151. choys, sb. choice, 48 61. chyde, rb. chide, 37/87, 93/134. 97, 29, 114/223, 120/401; -s, 3. sq. 65/48. chylde, sb. child, 93/150. chysel, sb. chisel, 116/298. chyualrie, sb. knighthood, 51 34. cite, sb. city, 1 18, 61 34; citee, 10/34. claryte, sb. brightness, 75.70.

cite, sb. city, 1 18, 61/34; citee, 10/34. claryte, sb. brightness, 75 70. clay, sb. 16/62, 18/102, 66/63. clayme, vb. clain, 72/117, 113/186; -n, pb. 118/338; -h, 3. sg. 24/53, 114/218, 116/271; -3, 3. sg. 108/30. clene, adj. clean, 8/69, 19/135, 34/1, 37/74, 60/151, 75/90, 80/18, 100/126, 113/193; sb. sg. 99/97; -ly, adv. 83/114. clense, vb. cleanse, 115/250.

clense, rb. cleanse, 115,250. clepe, rb. call, 115,235; -d, pp. 98,83,100,145. clere, adj. clear, bright, 31,117, 104,40. clergy, sb. 11,68; -e, 25,22,51,11. clerk, sb. 39,145, 40,170, 80,21;

-is, pl. 32/50. clete, sb. bur, ne counte at o c., don't care a pin about, 38/110. cleue, vb. cleave, cut, 92/117; -d, pp. 79/197.

cleuyn, vb. cleave, stick, 116 284. clippen, vb. clip, cut, 36 49. cloos, sb. close, enclosure, 57 59. cloth, sb. 2 30; clope, 74/36; clopes, pl. 11/56, 93/137; clothes, 112/159.

clothe, vb. 8/46, 72/120; clope, 9/83, 26/37, 38/124, 56/30; -d, pp. 6/11, 111/123; -dest, pt. 2. sg. 110/89; -s, 3. sg. 15/12.

clolyng, sb. clothing, 27,7. clymbyng, sb. climbing, 62,42. clyue, vb. cleave, divide, 106 89. cochour, sb. lounge, 7,23. coffres, sb. pl. coffers, 23 38.

coke, vb. fight, 51/29. cokes, sb. gen. cook's, 25/19. cokewolde, sb. cuckold, 102/27. cold, adj. 6/159, 73/24; sb. 9/87, 66/69; -colde, sb. 90/34, 104/32; vb. grow cold, 102/31.

colege, sb. college, 33 58. com, rb. come, 81/58; pt. 77/129. comandement, sb. commandment, 50/106.

comaunde, vb. command, 119 381; -ment, sb. commandment, 12/ 106, 45/161, (3/94, 102/36; -mentis, sb. pl. 76/98, 103/65, 106/102; -ments, 1/22.

come, vb. 8 65, 72, 25/5, 35/23, 67/ 104, 103/59, 113/186, 119/389; pt. 41/37, 49.102; comest, pres. 2. sg. 110/80, 94; cometh, pres. 3. sg. 8 60; come), 65/20, 91/77; pl. 37/73, 75/64.

comely, adj. 55, 152. comon, adj. common, 62, 67, 81, 63; -e, sb. common, 1/12; -s, sb. sg. common people, 55/137; pl. 12/

103, 63/78. common, 12 98; -s, sb. sq. common people. 10/29; pl. 10/27, 12/99. 51/11; -ly, adc. 18/127.

company, sb. 25 10, 78:79, 104 21, 113 189; -e, 81,74, 114 214. compas, sb. compass, circuit, 109 66

compas, sb. compass, circuit, 109, 66. conceyued, pp. conceived, 101, 11, 113, 194

condicion, sb. condition, 79/1; condicioun, 52/62. conquest, sb. 71/84.

consayl, sb. counsel, 109 42. conscience, sb. 3 67, 5/137, 18/105,

conscience, sb. 3, 67, 5/137, 18/105, 108, 82/95, 85/1, 120 416; gen. 72/95; for c., f. c.' sake, 84, 147.

contemplacion, sb. contemplation, 79/7, 84/168, 102/26; contemplacioun, 20/178. contemplatyf, adj. contemplative, 84/150. contrav. sb. country, 21/206. contrarious, adv. 96/12. contrary, 108/14; unruly, 93/135. contre, sb. country, 51/21. contricion, sb: contrition, 80/35; contricioun, 20/18o. contryue, vb. contrive, 62/61. coost, sb. coast, 59/121. corage, sb. courage, 7/19, 12/85, 87, 24/61, 58/95, 101/15, 113/178. corayest, vb. curriest, 20/190. corn, sb. 11/67, 19/143. cors, sb. corse, body, 72/120. cost, vb. 12/91; sb. value, 106/85. costage, sb. damage, 64/103. couenaunt, sb. covenant, contract, 35/31, 114/227. couent, sb. convent, 80/44. couetous, sb. pl. covetous people, couetys, sb. covetousness, 39/137, 62/54, 74/38; -e, 62/6o. counforted, pp. comforted, 97/39. counsaile, sb. counsel, 22/239, 1; counsayle, 8/73, 12/82, 89, 120/ 406; counseil, 1/2, 3/60, 9/78, 11/80, 64/15, 90/41, 118/345; counseile, vb. 28/43, 54/112; counseille, sb. 9/10; counseled, vb. pt.59/135, 69/5; counselere, sb. counsellor, 61/ 11; counsell, sb. counsel, 12/ counseyle, a6: vb.28/36; counseyleb, pl. 96/6. counte, vb. count, estimate, 30/91, 38/110, 39/142; -d, pp. 29/59; -s, pl. 22/235; -p, pl. 105/61. counterfete, vb. counterfeit, 35/38. countertayl, sb. countertally, 22/ 236. countrefete, vb. counterfeit, 83/ 128; -st, 81/69; -b, 3. sg. 93/ countretayle, sb.countertally. 102/47, 119/393. cours, sb. course, 10/40, 62/67. court, sb. 58/89. coward, adj. 8/74; -is, sb. cowardice, 19/144; -ys, 24/61, 59/135; -yse, 11/75.

cracche, sb. cratch, 93/146. craft, sb. force, power, 10/33, 53/ 75, 76, 71/60; skill, 116/298; -es, pl. handicraftsmen, 66/58; -y, adj. practising a handicraft, 61/35. crakowed, adj. pointed, 93/138. craue, vb. crave, demand, 18/106, 20/169, 30/83, 62/50, 72/94, 81/49, 87/74, 118/355, 120/406; -s, 3. sq. 100/148. Crede, sb. creed, 5/126, 25/15, 33/82, 58/94, 76/98, 88/90. crepe, vb. creep, 72/120. crie, vb. cry, 30/90. cristen, adj. Christian, 8/69, 33/81, 104/38, 41; sb. pl. 54/123. croddest, vb. pt. curdledst, 110/83. croos, sb. cross, 92/116. croun, sb. crown, 50/xii, 8. crowele, adj. cruel, 24/49. crowne, sb. crown, 51/9, 16, 24, 52/ 72, 53/96, 104, 61/10; -d, pp. 92/ 115. croys, sb. cross, 41/24, 102/52. crucyfyed, pp. crucified, 94/156. crye, vb. cry, 29/70, 33/70. curatours, sb. pl. curates, 33/71. cure, sb. 31/17, 39/154, 40/170, 44/ 132. curs, sb. curse, 36/49, 99/107; -ed, pp. 96/11, 25, 97/41, 57; -en, pl. 100/132; -eb, 3. pl. 99/96. curyd, pp. cured, 117/326. custom, sb. 58/82, 72/117, 82/93. cyte, sb. city, 61/21, 66/54. dagged, adj. cut into slips, 93/137. dale, sb. valley, 51/14. dampnacioun, sb. damnation, 106/ 78. dampne, vb. damn, 57/69, 58/104, 108/37, 111/118, 118/361; -p, 3. sq. 56/24; dampnyd, sb. pl. 120/409. damysele, sb. damsel, girl, 26/49. dar, vb. dare, 8/75, 12/84, 15/9, 71/ 66; -st, 43/83. dase, vb. dazzle, 67/90, 110. date, sb. 76/112. daunce, sb. dance, 7/42. daunger, sb. danger, 16/39; -e, power, 31/116; make d., hesi-, tate, 77/153. dawenynge, sb. dawning, 108/13. dawnted, pp. encouraged, 63/85.

day, sb. 8/74, 9/84, 13/133, 25/18; -es, pl. 24/54, 35/20, 67/98, 109/ 51, 52, 117/321; gen. pl. 107/2.

daynte, sb. dainty, 82/104.

debat, sb. debate, quarrel, 111/128; -e, 19/142, 22/243, 23/25, 25/21, 33/59, 42/67, 91/80; -e, rb. 48/39, 51/33, 68/125, 76/106, 98/91, 100/135.

declaryng, sb. declaring, 79/xviii. ded, adj. dead, 29/58, 106/98, 107/ 115: -e, sb. pl. 38/127.

ded, sb. death, 44/118, 56/20, 105

46; -e, 62/43.

ded, sb. deed, 118/343: -e, 6/155, 7/22, 12/111, 33/84, 38/127; sake, 70/34: -es, pl. 81/71.

dede, vb. pt. did, 21/208, 27/2, 28/21, 32/45, 42/51, 81/80, 120/415, 418.

dedely, adj. mortal, 112/138. **dedly**, adj. deadly, mortal, 14/149, 27/7, 30/105, 37/86, 69/150.

deef, adj. deaf, 21/215. deel, sb. deal, quantity, 68/116. dees, sb. daïs, throne, 98/83.

dees, so. dais, throne, 55/83. defame, sb. slander, 10/20; vb. 53

73defaut, sb. default, 31/15; -e, 46/ 205; want, 12/89, 29/75, 71/59. defence, sb. 83/125, 84/151. defende, vb. defend, 19/139, 58/95,

59/125.

deffens, sb. defence, 68/138. **defoule**, vb. defile, 44/127; -d, pp. 94/181, 113/181; **defowle**, 100/125.

degre, sb. degree, rank, manner, condition, 1/20, 10/39, 44, 38/131, 45/182, 59/39, 60/1, 61/18, 65/26, 71/69.

del, sb. deal, 40/171; a dele, adv. in some degree, 93/128; eche a dele, adv. entirely, 74/37; a dell, much, 58/97.

delay, sb. 31/16, 32/24, 32.40; -e, 31/viii, 8.

dele, rb. deal, give, 33 66, 64 109. 68/124, 96 4; -st, hast intercourse, 43/104.

deliuere, vb. deliver, 72/108, 115/

delys, sb. pleasure, 2/44, 3/58, 7/36, 33/79, 45/153, 48/63, 58/91, 74/51, 105/58.

delyte, vb. delight, 97 43.

delyuere, rb. deliver, 118 331, 119/383.

deme, vb. deem, judge, 6,155,7/22.
18/108, 46/195, 57/48, 83/120,133, 103/60, 106/87; -d, pt. 59,120; pp. 55/8; -st, 2. sp. 111/132; -stou, d. thou. 108/59; -p, 3. sp. 53/92, 65/19, 83/135.

dene, sb. din, 94/164. dent, sb. stroke, 59/120.

departe, vb. depart, 23/14, 90/38, 99/111; -p, 3. pl. 88/104.

depe, adv. deep, 18/102; sb. the main, 60/146.

dere, adj. 79/190; adv. 5/121, 32/ 45, 36/53, 43/90, 112, 67/96, 94/ 178.

derk, adj. dark, 49,74; sb. 53,93, 88/101.

derkenes, sb. darkness, 42,59, 50/ 118, 104/33, 117/325; -se, 115/ 266, 117/307, 119/368.

derne, adj. secret, 53 94; sad, 35 38.

derrere, adv. dearer, 49/100, 85 12. des, sb. daïs, high table, 9 6.

descryuyng, sb. description, 64 xv. desert, sb. merit, 19/162, 33/68. deserued, sb. pt. 86/24; deseruyd,

pp. 120/410. deses, vb. deceases, 13/134.

despence, sb. dispensation, 83, 121; rb. dispense, do without, 83, 123, despise, rb. 25, 26, 44, 132, 103, 70, despit, agens d., prep. in despite of, 72/95; -e, sb. 50/107.

despuse, vb. despise, 23/35; despyse, 116/289; despysed, pp. 69/147.

despyt, sb. despite, 44/115; -e, vb. 92/103.

dest, vb. doest, 30/89.
destaunce, sb. inconvenience, 98/78; reserve, 14/157.

destroyed, pp. shed, 8,69. destroy, vb. destroy, kill, 53,84. desyre, vb. desire, 44/125.

dep, sb. death, 11/78, 14/150, 24/53, 27/10, 34/98, 42/60, 63/98: deth, 95/189, 207; depes, gen. 64/102.

del, vb. does, 24/54; deth, pl. 3/70.

dette, sb. debt, 38/129, 132, 133, 44/130.

deueles, sb. pl. devils, 78/157; deuelys, gen. sg. 109/46. deuere, sb. duty, 72/114. deuocion, sb. devotion, 79/5, 80/37, 83/117, 84/167; deuocioun, 20/ 183, 24/67, 27/66, 55/150. deuyne, adj. divine, 44/130. deuysed, adj. disposed, 69/145. dewe, adj. due, 27/66; adv. 83/113; -ly, adv. 72/114. deve, vb. die, 72/105. deynte, sb. dainty, 97/55. die, vb. 29/80; dize, 27/16, 28/32, 30/88. dist, vb. prepare, 59/138; pp. 81/71, 114/228. Dirige, 107/xxiv. discomfites, vb. defeats, 80/26. discrecion, sb. discretion, 80/22; discrecioun, 20/181, 76/121; 20/181, discressioun, 94/154, 166. dispyse, vb. despise, 82/98. disserue, vb. deserve, 18/111. distance, sb. discord, 55/146; distaunce, 1/13; inconvenience, 10/ 41; alienation, 61/36. distresse, sb. distress, 8/52. distroyd, pp. destroyed, 52/68: distroye, vb. destroy, 46/184; -d, pp. 68/142; -b, 3. sq. 13/114, 41/14. diues, sb. the rich Man, 46/206. do, vb. 4/116, 6/164; -est, 112/ 146; -n, 20/172, 86/42; -st, 9/84, 42/65; **th**, sg. 4/105; -b, 28/31; pl. 79/10. doel, sb. lamentation, 68/114. doest, vb. 112/146. doluen, pp. dng, 18/102. dom, sb. doom, 88/107; -e, 110/79, 114/217, 221, 228; -es, pl. 10/26, 57/71.dombe, adj. dumb, 21/216. domesday, sb. doomsday, 28/18, 34/102, 119/381, 388. donghille, sb. dunghill, 109/72. dool, sb. affliction, 72/105. doom, sb. 3/68, 26/29, 30/103 55/9, 81/71; jurisdiction, 53/ 89. dotard, sb. 72/105. double, adj. 1/2. doun, adv. down, 91/79, 94/160. doun, pp. done, 109/59.

doute, sb. doubt, 104/20.

dowble, adj. double, 3/71, 44/126, downe, sb. hill, 51/14. dowte, sb. doubt, 98/79; vb. 1read, fear, 100/141. drane, sb. drone, 8/60. drank, vb. pt. 67/94, 77/131. drawe, vb. draw, turn, 15/23, 38/111; withdraw, 63/95, 71/92; pp. 23/39; -n, pp. 37/77, 92/94. dred, pp. overawed, 9/4. drede, sb. dread, 2/40, 41, 7/30, 9/1, 10/28, 13/120, 62/53, 82/106, 19/ 140; vb. 1/8, 3/80, 5/152, 12/108, 30/96, 69/7, 100/139, 111/107; -n, pl. 12/83; -p, 3. sg. 11/78. dredful, adj. dreadful, 118/332. dresse, vb. dress, prepare, 8/55. dreuen, vb. pt. pl. drove, 47/12. dronken, adj. drunken, 90/29. dronkenesse, sb. drunkenness, 82/ 103. drope, sb. drop, 4/118, 111/135. droueth, vb. 3 sq. troubles, 116/274. drowned, vb. pt. 42/46. drowtes, sb. dryness, 46/184. drye, adj. dry, 112/142; sb. dryness, 66/67; vb. to be dry, 67/94. dryze, vb. suffer, 43/93. drynk, sb. drink, 67/104, 74/36, 105/57; -e, 5/150, 38/123; -es, pl. 82/103. drynke, vb. drink, 22/234, 66/72, 81/80, 94/153; -st, 67/86. dryue, vb. drive, 39/163; pp. 28/ 26; -b, 3. sg. 13/120, 104/29, 32; pl. 79/12. dulle, vb. become dull, 67/89. dure, vb. last, 36/71. durked, pp. darkened, 105/53. durste, vb. pt. durst, 69/2. dust, sb. 108/29, 110/75. duwe, adj. dye, 44/130. dwelle, vb. dwell, 33/53, 42/64, 88/93, 93/136, 99/109, 102/56, 115/256, 119/381; -b, 3. sg. 105/ 60, 113/183; -th, 4/107. dye, vb. die, 25/14, 27/8, 28/24, 29/72; -d, pt. 28/40, 41/25, 76/ 116; -b, 3.8 g. 13/123; dyze, 28/ 48, 29/56, 64, 30/88, 43/98, 74/47, 80/32, 91/70, 109/55; -d, pt. 74/ 46, 47, 86/18. dygge, vb. dig, 66/63, 69/2. dyst, pp. prepared, 30/103, 95/192,

114/217; established, 9/11; appointed, 88/99, 103; directed, 104/16.

dyne, vb. dine, 66/70.

dysmembre, vb. dismember, 87/76. dyspyce, vb. despise, 108/24. dyuerce, adj. divers, 105/51.

ebbe, vb. ebb, 14 1.

ech, pron. each, 120/411; -e, 1/1, 8/57,13/116,15/22.87/59; echon, 97/52, 120/410.

eerly, adv. early, 108 31.

eft, adv. after, again, 17/88, 40/184, 56/13: -e, 58/83.

56/13; -e, 58/83. eke, vb. increase, 5/145, 90/51.

elde, sb. old age, 24/58.

elles, adv. else, 9/87, 29/79; ellis, 91/70; ellys, 31/13, 40/6, 69/12.

elne, sb. ell, 36/52.

embrowdid, pp. embroidered, 6/12. emyddis, prep. amidst, 70/56. enchaunted, pp. enchanted, 63 82.

encres, sb. increase, 116/276; vb. 50/2, 92/93; encresce, 86/42; -b, 3. sg. 113/184; encrese, 61/27; -b, 3. sg. 97/42; -th, 3. sg. 4/108; encresyng, sb. increase,

71/67.

ende, sb. end, 12/88, 15/6, 22/229, 69/11; make e., take an end, 78/163; rb. 27/2, 53/82, 65/48; -s, 3. sg. 10/23; -b, 51/34; pl. 104/28; endid, pt. 72/118.

endeles, adj. endless, 13/136, 76/ 112, 106/78, 79; adv. 32/42, 45/ 148, 89/4, 120/402; -less, 13/136.

endite, sb. indictment, 112/150.
enemy, sb. 15/28, 70/33, 80/26;
-s, pl. 13/115, 16/37, 42/46; gen. pl. 20/196.

Englische, adj. English, 54/121. ensample, sb. example, 68/141,

97/44; ensaumple, 3/78. entendement, sb. meaning, 1/2, 3/71.

enuye, sb. envy, 81/65, 70.

eny, pron. any, 33/58, 63/97.

er, conj. before, 2/55, 4/109, 28/30, 31/120, 62/53, 64/16, 111/136.

erande, sb. cause, purpose, 2/46, 20/175, 74/31, 78/172, 82/112. ere, sb. ear, 104/23; pl. 67/89; -n,

67/109; eryn, 64/13. ere, vb. show mercy, 12/103.

POEMS (OXF.)

ered, pp. imprinted, 116/294. erly, adv. early, 68/127, 91/78, 100/

129. erbe, sb. earth, 17/97, 46/183, 53/90,

64/3, 96/27; gen. 118/333; erthe, 112/137, 116/271.

erbely, adj. earthly, 41/17, 55/144, 75/66.

es, vb. 3. sg. is, 93/121; pl. 113/174. ese, sb. ease, 21/209, 25/16, 32/33, 45/154.

est, adv. east, 114/208.

estate, sb. 4 97.

estre, sb. Easter, 106, 100; Estren, pl. 104/28, 106/98.

ete, vb. eat, 20,234, 36/70, 37/78, 70/49, 94/153, 105/61; -n, pl.

pres. 106/100; pl. pt. 106/98; -st, 2. sg. pres. 67/86; -b, pl. 107/126.

euel, sb. pl. wicked people, 103/60; adv. 8/66, 94/129; -e, 7/29.

euelfare, sb. mischief, 90/30.

euell-sponnen, adj. ill-spun, 98/64. euene, adj. even, right, just, 3/61, 6/164, 9/12, 13, 34/103; adv. 74/ 44, 76/94; -est, sup. 76/124.

euenhede, sb. evenness, impar-

tiality, 1/6, 14.

euere, adv. ever, 3.76, 24/56; e.more, adv. evermore, always, 8/67, 36/71, 102/39.

euerlastynge, adj. 117/309; adv. 117/329.

euerons, adv. evermore, always, 13/141.

euery, pron. every, 9,6.

euerydele, pron. everything, 73/5. eure, adv. ever, 60/156.

euyl, sb. evil, 74/56; adj. 12/93, 57/69; euyll, sb. 77/151; adj. 52/55.

excusyd, pp. excused, 120/403,

executours, sb. pl. executors, 22/

232. ey, sb. eye, 113/185; -en, pl. 64/

12, 67/110, 115/256; -s, pl. 41/18. eyge, sb. eye, 21/215, 43/94, 91/88, 117/318, 120/412; pl. 67/87, 90; -n, pl. 109/49, 114/216, 117/303, 305.

face, sb. 20 188, 44/133, 45/175, 95/200, 114/226.

fader, sb. father, 23/11, 45/163, 85/ 181, 89/10, 116/268; gen. 102/56; fadir, 50/104, 54/113; fadyr, 54/115; fadres, gen. sg. 94/159; pl. 107/123. faile, vb. fail, 22/3.

faire, adj. fair, 6/3; adv. 36/43, 83/ 131.

fal, vb. fall, 64/16; sb. 37/81, 66/73. fall, vb. 87/72; -e, 21/202, 24/52, 34/89, 37/90, 102/30; befall, 3/73; -eb, 3. sq. 37/91.

fals, adj. false, 1/4, 6/157, 13/121; sb. pl. 10/20, 58/102, 99/122; -e, adj. 5/121, 6/158; sb. pl. 52/66, 58/102.

falsed, sb. falsehood, 17/93, 52/67, 53/73, 55/6, 12, 58/99; gen. 15/12. falsely, adv. 25/6, 57/91.

falshed, sb. falsehood, 3/62, 10/22,

18/113, 23/33.

fame, sb. 7/18, 27/61, 60/2. fande, vb. seek, try, 115/242. fane, sb. weather-cock, 8/58. fantasie, sb. fancy, fictitious tale,

89/5.

fardel, sb. 29/52, 119/391. fare, vb. 7/29, 68/120, 69/1, 93/129, 107/7; f. with, treat, 44/121; -b, 3. sg. 14/2, 41/9.

fas, sb. face, 111/131. fast, adj. 105/46, 114/222; adv. 57/ 58, 94/163, 112/145; -e, adv. 18/

117, 19/146, 63/100, 81/67. faste, vb. fast, 67/105, 107, 68/114, 89/23, 90/50; fastyng, sb. fast, 84/163.

fat, sb. 113/199.

fatte, adj. fat, 45/150.

fauel, sb. chestnut horse, 20/190. fau;t, vb. pt. fought, 59/112.

fauour, sb. favour, 1/15, 55/9, 56/ 22, 65/46.

fauoured, pp. favoured, 6/156. fawte, sb. fault, want, 10/27, 12/92, 53/102; -s, pl. 19/137, 63/70.

fay, adj. dead, 21/198. fay, sb. faith, 18/126, 34/85, 43/100,

104/20. fayle, vb. fail, 12/85, 77/125, 80/31,

119/378; -b, 3. sg. 77/126. fayn, adj. fain, glad, joyful, 26/47, 48/65; 97/54; -e, 21/221.

fayre, adj. fair, nice, 13/122, 14/ 145, 21/227, 43/107, 64/13, 83/

132, 94/180; adv. 7/27, 93/134; sb. fairness, 113/178.

fayrenesse, sb. fairness, beauty, 43/111,64/106; fayrnesse, 48/52. fayrest, adj. sup. fairest, 55/143.

fayb, sb. faith, 114/210. faytour, sb. hypocrite, 8/63.

fe, sb. fee, 61/23. feble, adj. feeble, 8/53, 24/58, 27/

61; sb. pl. 51/38. feblenes, sb. feebleness, 24/60, 51/ 36; -se, 68/128.

fed, sb. feud, deadly quarrel, 56/18. fed, sb. food, 74/36.

fed, vb. pt. 42/50, 107/124; pp. 101/6.

fede, vb. feed, 7/28, 8/46, 26/37, 38/124, 45/150, 58/102, 65/32, 70/ 50, 103/64, 107/110, 112/159; -b, 3. sq. 91/83.

fee, sb. 45/162, 66/52, 73/17, 86/24, 114/218.

feet, sb. pl. 66/61,65, 67/95, 98, 111, 78/118.

fel, sb. skin, 116/292.

felaschip, sb. fellowship, comrades, 67/100; -e, 97/48; felawship, 77/128.

feld, sb. field, 109/71; -e, 39/166, 51/14.

fele, adj. much, many, 32/52, 45/ 155, 78/179, 96/2.

fele, vb. feel, 4/109, 73/3, 101/13. fele, adj. cruel, bloody, 48/53; felle, 42/58, 119/385.

felle, sb. skin, 88/95, 102/50, 119/

felle, vb. fell, knock down, 13/140. felle, vb. pt. fell, 20/185.

feloun, sb. felon, 65/23. felow, sb. fellow, 7/13, 16/44, 21/204, 205; -e, 7/41.

felowshipe, sb. fellowship, 113/196. felbe, sb. filth, 75/68. felyng, sb. feeling, 64/6, 107/113,

115, 117, 119.

felynge, sb. hiding-place, refuge, 116/273.

fen, $sb.\ 110/74$. fend, sb. fiend, enemy, 103/70; -e, 16/39, 29/54, 78/165, 79/196; -es,

gen. 2/55; pl. 23/21; -is, sg. gen. 48/68; pl. 22/235, 94/182; pl. gen. 7/33, 43/108, 94/182; -ys, pl. 3/87, 110/101, 118/338.

fende, vb. ward off, defend, 8/75, 12/84, 65/35, 78/175. fer, adj. far, 7/23; adv. 36/52, 52/ 58, 94/184; -e, adv. 73/8. ferd, sb. fear, 55 7; adj. afraid, 36/69. fere, sb. companion, 43 108, 49/73, 94/182. ferly, sb. wonder, 47/17. fernger, adv. formerly, 56/31; -e, 48/65. ferre, adv. far, 8/65. ferbe, adj. fourth, 47/33. fest, vb. fasten, 114 210. fest, sb. feast, 46 1, 108/16; -e, 97/56, 107/110.

fet, vb. pt. fetched, 47/19.
fewe, adj. 32/51; sb. 100/151.
feynt, adj. faint, 27/3, 69/14.
flerhe, adj. fourth, 72/116.
flight, sb. 5/130, 7/30, 8/52; fist,
13/140, 30/98, 54/129; vb. 52/67;
-e, 11/55; -eb, 3. sg. 2/111

fille, vb. fill, 85/115; -d, pp. 97/55, 116/292; -b, 3. sg. 96/13. filt, pp. filled, 27/6. filbe, sb. filth, 101/7.

fingere, sb. pl. fingers, 68,134. first, adj. 104/26; adv. 21/208, 39/ 161, 47/9; -e, adj. 11.60. fit, sb. shock, blow, 52,45. flaterer, sb. flatterer, 59/134. flaterye, sb. flattery, 28/22.

flateryng, ger. flattering, 7,33, 42, 8/49. flatter, vb. flatter, 75/92. fle, vb. flee, 2/42, 3/58, 6/167, 25/28, 27/10, 42/74, 59/109, 71/91, 74/56, 93/147, 103/72; -s, 3, sg. 14/166;

fleeb, 3. sq. 45/170, 113/182. fleme, vb. fly, 111/115; expel, 83/ 116; -d, pp. 63/86.

flesch, sb. flesh, 27/3, 41/14, 64/
105; -e, 119/379; -es, pl. 116/
283.

fleschely, adj. fleshly, 18/109, 81/54, 94/171, 108/16; fleschly, 2/44, 18/105, 27/64, 90/42; adr. 105/45; fleschlye, adj. 109/49.

flet, pp. flet, flit, 52/42, 90/25. fleve, vb. fly, 95/208.

fleye, vb. fly, 95/208. flige, vb. fly, 62/47. flo, sb. arrow, 64/102; -n, 48/38.

flood, sb. 46/184. florische, rb. flourish, 7/27.

flour, sb. flower, 55/143; -e, 51/34; -es, pl. 6/3, 52/41, 75/66, 113/177. floure, sb. flour, 70/50.

flowe, vb. flow, 14/1, 92/118; -n,

pp. 47/7. fiyje, vb. fly, 91/82.

flynt, sb. flint, 116/297. flyt, vb. flit, 70/54, 73/8.

flyte, vb. scold, 30/93, 92/97. fo, sb. enemy, 16/68, 61/6, 69/17; pl. 110/100; fon, pl. 65/35, 69/14. fode, sb. food, 8/54, 105/58.

fold, sb. time, 35/21. fold, sb. earth, 72/113.

folde, sb. fold, enclosure, 39/158. folde, sb. yield, give way, 77/125. foles, sb. pl. fools, 7/35, 69/6.

folk, sb. people, 3/63, 16/48, 56, 19/ 152, 26/34, 36, 48/65, 61/35, 68/ 97; -e, 3/66; -es, pl. 32/51.

folwe, vb. follow, 3/61, 6/167, 8/58, 25/28, 47/29, 75/82, 103/72, 109/70, 120/397; -d, pt. 94/183; pp. 102/45; -b, 3. sg. 61/5, 93/151.

102/45; -b, 3. sg. 61/5, 93/151. folwyng, sb. what one follows or aims at, aim, 114/234.

aims at, aim, 114/234. foly, sb. folly, 3/58, 32/44, 41/20; gen. 10/39; -es, pl. 62/xvi. folyhede, sb. foolishness, 69/1.

fomen, sb. pl. enemies, 59/109. fonde, sb. seek, try, 26 51, 120 415. fong, rb. get, 45/162, 86/24; -es, 3. sq. 98/66.

foo, sb. enemy, 4/106, 15/25, 26, 24/68, 68/143, 70/50; -n, pl. 13/140.

fool, sb. 3/65, 5/138, 70/29, 72/99; -es, pl. 6/167, 25/28, 40/173, 80/ 23; gen. pl. 2/46; fooll, sg. 9/12. foomen, sb. pl. enemies, 39/41.

foot, sb. 50/102; -e, 6/3.

for, prep. 1 11; conj. 2/45, 8/68;
f. to, prep. in order to, 26/46.
forbed, vb. pt. forbade, 56/21, 62/41.

forbede, vb. forbid, 32 26. forber, vb. spare, 114 206; -e, for-

bear, avoid, 87/52, 63. forbore, pp. forborne, 83/139.

forborn, pp. removed, 52/57, 113/

forcast, pp. forecast, 56/20. fordon, pp. undone, spoiled, 117/316.

fore, prep. for, 99/102. forestes, sb. pl. forests, 45/174.

forfete, vb. 65/23, 37/101; -d, pt. 47/10: -st, 77/148. forgete, vb. forget, 37/94, 40/188: pp. 35/30.forgeb, vb. 3. sg. forges, contrives, 17/93, 63/97. forgeue, vb. forgive, 106/106. forgo, vb. forego, lose, 26/42, 92/ 119. forlore, pp. lost, 54/119, 75/88. forme, sb. form, 40/182. fornycacion, sb. fornication, 102/ 28. fors, sb. effort, 26/52. forsake, vb. 34/4, 70/35, 77/155, 95/191; pp. 89/21; -n, 91/86. forsobe, adv. forsooth, 77/136, 107/ 2, 112/146. forswere, adv. forswear, 44/115. forsworn, adj. perjured, 52/59. forth, adv. 7/15, 28; forb, 36/45, 41/36. for-thy, conj. therefore, 28/24, 39/ 144, 71/62; for-by, 35/16, 32. fortune, sb. 39/146; gen. 101/11. fostre, vb. foster, feed, 46/201. fot, sb. foot, 112/153. foul, adj. 14/147, 75/68; -e, 46/ 202; adv. 8/62, 25/26; -ere, comp. 101/5. founden, pp. found, 92/107. foundour, sb. founder, 79/3. foure, num. four, 36/50, 64/11, 72/ fourme, sb. form, 44/120. fourty, num. forty, 42/50. fram, prep. from, 119/383. fraternite, sb. fraternity, 91/60. fre, adj. free, guiltless, kind, 14/167, 30/108, 41/19, 62/49, 91/58, 108/36; free, 21/197. freek, sb. fellow, 72/99. frele, adj. frail, 27/3, 48/50, 64/ 105, 68/126. frend, sb. friend, 12/105, 15/26, 27 24/168, 67/100, 78/174; -e, 15/ 25, 36, 27/69, 78/167; pl. 69/13, 79/198, 98/86; -es, 4/100, 116/ 289; -is, 12/109, 14/157, 159; -ys, 110/99. frere, sb. friar, 40/5. fro, prep. from, 2/42, 3/58, 15/25, 26; adv. 119/368; from, prep.

ful, adj. full, 4/106, 12/105, 32/42;

adv. very, 2/38, 5/121, 19/142, 36/ 44, 68/135, 90/26; full, adj. 36/ 54; adv. 45/155. fulfilde, pp. filled, 113/172. fulfille, vb. fulfil, 43/79, 72/104, 81/54. fulfylleb, vb. 3. sq. fulfils, 99/103. fyere, sb. fire, 13/118. fyfte, adi, fifth, 48/41. fyfty, num. fifty, 69/15. fyze, vb. hate, 91/72. fy3t, sb. fight, 44/143, 65/23; vb. 114/232, 115/259; -e, 90/53. fygure, sb. figure, type, 107/122. **fylde**, pp. filled, 97/57. fyled, pp. defiled, 99/101. fylle, vb. fill, 23/38. fylth, sb. filth, 101/5; fylbe, 46/ fylthy, adj. filthy, 101/3. fynde, vb. find, 4/90, 11/74, 45/176, 72/113, 77/132, 80/23, 101/23, 112/ 141. fynde, vb. supply, procure, 8/54, 46/204, 61/29; -b, 3. sq. 73/21. 98/71.fyne, vb. pay a fine, 41/38. fynger, sb. finger, 68/137. fyngres, sb. pl. fingers, 65/37, 68/ fyre, sb. fire, 11/62, 45/179, 46/187, 64/3, 77/150, 114/208. fyue, num. five, 35/39, 103/68. gadere, vb. gather, 25/9; -th, 3. sg. 99/104; gadre, 14/4, 81/59, 116/ 280; -d, pp. 119/391; gadrid, pp. 55/1; gadryng, ppr. 96/14, \hat{sb} . 103/5. 3af, vb. pt. 41/22, 44/118, 48/57, 56/ 23, 86/32, 110/91, 119/386. galle, sb. gall, 44/119. game, sb. sport, amusement, 27/63, 44/113; -s, pl. 70/40. gan, vb. (pleon.) pt. began, 43/98, 67/97, 69/3. garner, sb. 67/84. gat, vb. pt. gotst, 100/150. 3ate, sb. gate, 42/69, 47/36, 76/110, 79/12; -s, pl. 75/87, 119/384; gates, pl. paths, 47/30. **gawdy,** *adj.* gaudy, 6/11. gay, adj. 6/12, 9/78, 17/78, 32/46. gayte, sb. gaiety, 71/81. 3e, pron. you, 1/6, 7/35, 9/83.

2e. adr. yea, 27/61.

geaunt, sb. giant, 44/146.

zede, vb. pt. went, 72/118, 112/155, 119/304.

gedre, vb. gather, 10/38, 25/4.

zee, adv. yes, 7/28, 17/91.

geer, sb. year, 56/29, pl. 42/50; -e, 35/19.

zelde, rb. vield, give, 11/58, 37/97, 76/108; 3. rekenyng, render an account, 46/196, 50/110, 114/231. zeme, vb. take care of, 60/161, 83/

114, 111/113.

gemen, sb. pl. yeomen, 65/37.

general, adj. 113 190; -e, adv. 16/ 41: in g. -e, adv. 11;1; gen-

erall, adj. 84/148. gentyl, adj. gentle, 81 57, 84 153; -es, sb. pl. godly people, 82/82; gentyll, adj. kind, 85/184.

zerde, sb. yard, 36/52; rod, 3/83, 54/114, 117, 119, 109/47, 111/125. gere, sb. year, 36/50; -s, pl. 107/4;

erys, pl. 109/53. gerne, adr. readily, 98 77.

gerned, vb. pt. desired, sought, 85/ 9, 114/203.

ges, vb. 3. sg. goes, 9, 14.

geson, adj. barren, scanty, 58/77. gesse, vb. guess, wonder, 8/53.

gest, sb. guest, one entertained, saved, 41/34, 44/121, 49/69; pl. 65/31; -e, 67/100.

get, vb. 7/18, 71/78; -e, 8/50, 14/ 152, 34 6, 44/126, 59/139, 68/115, 71/76; pp. -en, 33/67; -est, 2. sg. 8/45; -eb, 3. sg. 63/75; -ing, sb. 44/135; -yng, ger. 2/31.

geb, vb. 3. sg. goes, 118/335; geth, 113/177.

qeue, conj. if, 42 55.

zeue, vb. 15/25, 26, 20/170, 25/3, 26/29, 43/94, 44/120, 73/7, 17; -n, pp. 41/42; -b, 3. sq. 61/23, 114/219; pl. 19/164, 36/66; -th,

5/149; geueb, 3. sg. 52/72. zif, conj. if, 2/51, 6/161, 86/15; gif, 3/73.

gifte, sb. gift, 20/182, 29/71; -s, pl.

gilteles, adj. guiltless, 6, 166; giltles, 38/126.

git, adv. yet, 10/41, 91/63.

glad, adj. 26/35, 55/5.

glade, vb. rejoice, 35/9, 46/1, 48/56,

49/80, 87/66, 100/137, 107/127; -b, 3. sq. 98/72.

glede, sb. glowing coal, 4/110, 8/70, 56/14.

glene, rb. glean, 8/68. glose, sb. gloss, 89/2.

gloser, sb. cajoler, 8/47, 57, 59/134; gen. 70/51; -e, 17/83, 86, 21/201, 28/22; pl. 21/207, 221; -es, pl. 17/73, 19/145; -s, pl. 69/5, 8.

glosyng, ger, cajoling, 7/42, 8/49. gloton, adj. glutton, 90/50.

glotonye, sb. gluttony, 18/122, 27/6.

glotoun, sb. pl. gluttons, 67/84. glotry, sb. gluttony, 82 104.

glowe, vb. glows, 4 110; -b, 3, sq. 56/14.

glyde, vb. glide, 120/397. gnewe, vb. pt. gnawed, 41/24.

go, vb. 5/149, 10/35, 11/55, 27/9, 32 46, 49/93, 111/136; pp. 13/ 119; sb. 120 414; -n, 34 90, 103, 65/37, 66/50; pp. 66/78, 86/29; -st, 2. sg. 106/81; -b, 3. sg. 15/5, 22/7; pl. 40/176.

god, sb. 1/8, 16, 24, 9/8; goddis, gen. 2/34, 3 69, 9/11, 16/49, 30/82; godes, 1/19, 2/27; godis, 108/ 14.

godhed, sb. godhead, 45/16;: -e, 23/13, 88/106.

30ken, vb. voke, 105 71.

gold, sb. 66/52, 98/75. 30ng, adj. young, inexperienced, unsufficient, 1/5, 23/27; sb. pl. 59/

131; -e, 35/23. goo, vb. go, 101/16.

good, adj. 1/7; -e, 4/93, 79/9, 81 66. good, sb. benefit, right, 4/94, 29 60, 42/54, 77/151; pl. good people, 103/60; -e, 60/162; good property, 26/43, 36/53, 81/59; -es, pl. 2/26; -is, gooddis, 14/4.

goodnes, sb. goodness, virtue, 82/ 112.

3001, sb. Yule, 72/103.

gore, adr. once, 11/65, 54/117, 83/ 137, 85/9, 92/110.

gospel, sb. 18/112; gospell, 22/ 248, 100/130; -e, 11/53, 33/55, 102/54.

gost, sb. ghost, spirit, 89/109, 110/

93. gostely, adv. ghostly, 23/23;

gostly, 2/45, 22/7, 28/31, 32/23, 41/13; adj. 96/22, 105/58. goten, pp. got, 4/117. gouen, pp. given, 104/20, 41. gouernance, sb. 55/151; gouernaunce, 1/10, 10/43, 13/137, 14/ 154, 24/41, 61/34. gouerne, vb. govern, 1/21, 11/72, 13/130, 138, 25/17; -d, pp. 3/57, 52/65, 71/69; -b, 3. sg. 14/160, 99/101. gouernour, sb. governor, 55/138; pl. 61/21; -e, 23/11; -es, pl. 13/ 129; -s, pl. 1/17. gouernyng, sb. government, 64/11. 30ur, adj. your, 67/102; -e, 1/20, 3/87, 7/34, 13/133, 35/25; -es, pron. 1/19, 13/131, 57/51; 30ureseluen, yourselves, 35/12. 30ube, sb. youth, 57/51, 112/144. 30w, pron. you, 3/76, 7/34, 9/83, 12/107. gow, sb. gull, 17/84. 30wthe, sb. youth, 29/49. grace, sb. 12/93, 20/186, 23/20; excellence, 20/165. grace, vb. enjoy the favour of God, 52/61, graceles, adj. graceless, 11/77, 12/ 94, 41/13. grame, sb. anger, 44/119, 71/78, 92/102.gras, sb. grace, 36/47, 43/96, 77/ 148. graue, sb. grave, 81/53, 90/45, 115/ grauen, pp. engraved, 116/297. graunte, vb. grant, consent, 17/91, 52/49, 57/62, 79/199, 90/44, 95/ 216, 111/136; -d, pp. 39/161, 63, 87; -b, 3. sq. 96/9. gre, sb. degree, rank, 27/15. gre, sb. favour, will, 42/72, 88/82. greceles, adj. grassless, 45/150. gredy, adj. greedy, 20/169, 29/65, 67, 62/50. gref, sb. grief, 92/75. gren, sb. green, 6/11. gres, sb. grass, 11/62, 22/6. grese, vb. graze, 62/46. gret, adj. great, 9/86, 10/30, 11/61, 43/82, 66/56, 82/104, 84/155; -e,

14/158, 37/86, 70/56, 82/103; adv.

grette, adj. great, 37/93; -r, comp.

55/10.

60/2, 61/4; -re, 35/27, 107/120; -st, sup. 106/86. greuaunce, sb. grievance, 1/12, 4/ 91, 14/164, 38/107, 40/185 greue, vb. grieve, 3/74, 17/76, 44/ 113, 78/162; -d, pt. 41/39; -s, 3. sg. 12/101; -b, 3. sg. 32/46. greues, sb. pl. griefs, 5/127. grewe, vb. pt. grew, 41/24, 113/ 182. ground, sb. 65/47. groundid, pp. grounded, 33/61. grow, vb. 65/47; -e, 11/61, 37/86, 59/142, 83/117; -eb, 3. sg. 15/15. grucche, vb. grudge, grumble, 26/53. grynde, vb. grind, 67/108. grype, vb. gripe, grasp, 82/83. gryslyhede, sb. horror, 117/330. gryue, vb. grieve, 108/18. gulteles, adj. guiltless, 98/61. aut, adv. yet, 2/39, 9/3, 28/39, 43/77.gyde, sb. guide, 99/120, 114/225. gyde, adj. giddy, fickle, 58/78. gyed, pp. governed, 52/71. gyft, sb. gift, 98/62. gyze, vb. guide, 30/110. gyle, sb. guile, deceit, 13/122, 17/ 93; -s, pl. 63/97. gyle, vb. guile, cheat, 32/39; -b, pl. 45/152. gylt, sb. guilt, 41/25, 57/67, 72/97, 73/14; -es, pl.41/39; -is, 50/103. gynne, vb. begin, 27/2. gynnyng, sb. beginning, undertaking, 38/110. gys, sb. practice, custom, 58/91; -e, 36/67, 26/31, 44/128. yue, vb. give, 1/5, 2/44, 28/29, 117/308, 309, habergeoun, sb. habergeon, 51/30. habyte, sb. habit, 83/114. had, vb. pt. 6/9; hadde, 85/7, 101/16; -st, 2. sq. 15/28. had-y-wist, had I known! vain afterthought, repentance, 22/229. haldeb. vb. hold. 36/65. half, adj. 17/94. halle, sb. hall, 8/64, 21/204, 61/29. **halt**, adj. lame, crippled, 100/147. halwe, vb. hallow, consecrate, 104/ 37; -d, pt. 18/121. ham, adv. home, 114/210; -e, 7/23. han, vb. have, 5/123, 24/41, 35/17, 38/123, 40/189, 50/111, 58/105, 60/150, 156.

hand, sb. 26/43, 50/102, 82/83, 115/ 237; -e, 20/196, 115/236, 116/ 290; -es, pl. 66/58, 67/97, 111, 78/188: -is, 44/116, 67/93, 68/

132. handles, adj. handless, 21/214.

hap, sb. 39/153.

hard, adj. 22/237, 33/53, 52/44, 83/122, 86/27, 102/51; -e, harsh, 80/43; working hard, 114/204; -er, comp. 93/124; -ere, 83/124;

-est, sup. 60/145.

hardy, adj. 8/76, 11/76. hardynes, sb. hardiness, 58/95. harlotrye, sb. harlotry, 43/109.

harm, sb. 10/30, 52/52, 62/38; -es, pl. 70/56.

harme, vb. harm, 42/54; -s, 3. sg. 8/49, 23/17; -\(\bar{p}\), 55/10.

has, vb. 3. sg. hast, 77/146; hast, 1/10, 7/17, 31/4; haste, 119/374; hastou, hast thou, 107/6, 108/21, 112/154, 117/354.

haste, adj. hasty, 90/54; hasty,

56/18.

hastyng, ppr. hastening, 44/138. hat, vb. 3. sq. 42/72.

hat, rb. 3. sq. conj. be called, 39/ 155.

hat, sb. hate, 111/126; -e, 1/3, 4/ 99, 23/27, 63/75.

hate, vb. 19/148, 156, 163, 25/20, 51/35, 61/13, 100/131, 110/100; -st, 2. sg. 43/81.

hatere, sb. hater, 80/20.

hatest, adj. sup. hottest, 59/110. hab, vb. 3. sg. has, 30/108, 63/77; hath, 2/25, 33, 116 290.

hattere, adj. comp. hotter, 28/37. hatteb, vb. 3. sg. is called, 78/185. haue, vb. have, 2/29, 4/111, 116, 26/49, 31/1; -n, 5/132.

haunted, pp. visited, 18/127, 39/ 163, 63/84; hauntest, 2. sq. 43/8o.

hay, sb. 20/190, 22/5.

hay 30l hayl, interj. heyday, 22/ 234.

he, pers. pron. 2/27, 5/139; they, 74/54, 97/49, 51.

hed, sb. head, 44/116, 50/102, 68/ 129, 135; -e, 112/153.

hede, vb. hide, 3/78.

hede, vb, heed, keep, mind, 60/166, 107/112.

hede, sb. heed, 2/54, 3/86, 6/6, 25/ 13, 46/198, 74/29,

hedlyng, adv. headlong, 32/52. hegge, sb. hedge, 13/127.

heire, sb. heir, 13/123, 51/40. held, pp. heaped, 28/30.

held, vb. pt. 2. sg. heldst, 30/84; -e, 37/99; 3. sq. 6/8.

helde, vb. stoop, 24/60.

hele, sb. health. 2/53, 35/25, 48/52, 64/106, 61/122, 78/181, 87/71. hele, vb. heal, 33/69.

hele, vb. hide, conceal, 16/47, 19/115. helle, sb. hell, 4/111, 28/35; gen. 2/41, 29/77, 73/25

helle-fyre, sb. hell-fire, 113/192. helle-hete, sb. heat of hell, 94/157, 119/363.

helle-houndes, sb. hell-hounds, 35/22, 76/112; -is, 77/150.

helle-tike, sb. pl. hell-hounds, 37/157.

help, sb. 24/62, 105/49; -e, 60/165, 96/20

help, vb. 4/94: -e, 18/116, 21/23, 33, 39/167; 111/116; -eb, pl. 22/ 239, 66/73.

helpe, sb. health, 104/38. hem, pers. pron. him, 7/28, 42/73; them, 3/70, 4/94, 6/162, 12/104,

29/50, 68, 80/38; -e, 56/19. hemself, reft. pron. themselves, 15/7, 40/173.

hende, adj. gentle, 98/84. henne, adv. hence, 34/103.

herbe, sb. herb, 78/185. herberwe, sb. lodging, 74/36. herberweles, sb. pl. harbourless

people, 26/38. herborwe, sb. shelter, 5/150.

herd, pp. heard, 21/223. herde, vb. pt. heard, 89/5.

herde, sb. shepherd, 107/112.

here, adj. her, 26/51, 91/84; their, 5/123, 6/6, 11/74, 12/102, 16/38, 97/47.

here, pers. pron. her, 26/55, 90/26, 91/83, 117/308; herself, 90/40.

here, vb. hear, 2/51, 10/19, 20/184, 21/201, 56/43, 69/10, 104/17, 119/ 380; -b, 3. sg. 80/38.

here, sb. hearing, 21/215.

here, vb. hire, 32/28, 39/164.

here, adv. 5/123, 28/39; here-on, adv. hereon, 28/48.

heresy, sb. 29/79.

heretikes, sb. pl. heretics, 5/126. heretyk, sb. heretic, 34/86.

heritage, sb. 20/179, 37/101, 41/28, 59/114, 73/184, 101/20.

herkene, vb. hearken, listen, 82/

hernes, sb. pl. corners, 9/5, 19/157, 53/74.

herre, adv. comp. higher, 68/140; adj. comp. 81/61; herrere, 60/1, 61/3.

hert, sb. heart, 2/44, 6/159; -e, 6/4, 41/26, 50/103, I, 67/112, 72/122, 86/27, 90/31; -es, pl. 83/115; -ys, 49/79.

herte-blod, sb. heart-blood, 77/147, 78/181; h.-blood, 42/53.

hertely, adv. heartily, earnestly, 101/I.

herte-sorwe, sb. heart-sorrow, true s., 35/33.

heruest, sb. harvest, 86/22. herved, rb. pt. harried,

heryed, vb. pt. harried, 42/60, 102/52.

heryeng, ger. praising, 104/17; -e, 104/22.

hery3e, vb. praise, 103/9.

heryng, ger. hearing, 64/13, 67/89, 109.

herytage, sb. heritage, 118/359. hesse, poss. pron. his, 24/53.

hest, sb. command, 108/14; -es, pl. 97/36, 102/37.

het, vb. 3. sg. hits, 65/22.

het, sb. 4/109, 11/60, 66/69; -e, 56/15, 68/119, 91/77.

helen, sb. pl. heathers, 54/123. heued, sb. head, 64/9, 65/18.

heuen, sb. gen. heaven's, 2/43; -e, 4/111; gen. 33/79, 60/168, 95/199; -ys, pl. 117/333.

heuenward, adv. heavenward, 40/x.

heuy, adj. heavy, 49/79, 108/25; -e, 108/26.

hewe, sub. hue, colour, appearance, 15/12, 16/53, 50/119, 113/178.

heyest, adj. sup. highest, 56/42. hey, adj. high, 56/39.

hey-wey, sb. highway, 13/128.

hid, vb. hide, 63/71; pp. 88/102; -e, 82/93. hider, adv. hither, 51/27.

hige, vb. hasten, 18/115.

hije, adj. high, 23/29, 66/53, 70; -st, sup. 79/8.

hize-way, sub. highway, 18/132. hizt, sb. height, on h., on high,

101/157, 109/10. him-self, refl. pron. 21/200. hire, sb. wages, 36/66.

his, poss. pron. 2/26, 62/59; theirs, 100/140.

hisse, poss. pron. his, 4/116, 73/28, 84/158, 108/30.

hit, pers. pron. it, 2/27, 4/98, 16/67, 82/110.

hit, pp. 90/31. hod, sb. hood, cap, 9/83.

hoke, vb. hook, bend, 24/60. hold, vb. keep, think, oblige, 62/67; -e, 15/27, 16/51, 35/20, 31, 36/59, 39/148, 45/151, 65/31, 71/71, 93/

121, 102/25; -en, pp. 57/45, 72/99; -est, 2. sg. 42/70, 113/185; -ep, 3. sg. 14/166, 91/87; -ing, ger. 2/31.

holichirche, sb. Holy Church, 32/25, 63/81.

holiday, sb. 18/122.

holigost, sb. the Holy Ghost, 23/12, 30/110.

holy, adj. 34/I, 39/162, 89/109. holycherche, sb. Holy Church, gen. 42/72; holychirche, 19/137, 103/2; holychyrche, 103/6.

holyday, sb. holiday, 18/121. holygost, sb. the Holy Ghost,

23/20. holynes, sb. holiness, piety, 16/57, 51/22; holynesse, 84/156.

hom, adv. home, 50/1, 91/77; -e, 2/38.

homly, adv. homely, intimately, 70/24.

hond, sb. hand, 96/28, 107/117; -e, 82/83, 120/411; -es, pl. 19/135, 65/36, 68/115.

honde-warke, sb. handiwork, 118/362.

honest, adj. 13/141, 18/123.

honge, vb. hang, 71/83; -b, 3. sg. 14/165.

honour, sb. 55/141, 56/42, 104/13, 14; -es, pl. 84/172.

hony, sb. honey, 8/59. hoo, interj. 4/109, 62/54.

hood, sb. 84/155.

hool, adj. whole, 61/10, 79/192, 105/62; adv. 11/51.

hoot, adj. hot, 95/205; sub. 90/34. hope, sb. 117/306.

hord, sb. hoard, store, 37/75. 84, 43/87.

horde, vb. hoard, store, 37/80.

horn, sb. 26/59.

horyble, adj. horrible, 101/8. hospital, sb. lodging, 65/31.

hostry, sb. inn, 25/19.

hot, adj. 56/14, 102/31. hoteb, vb. 3. sq. bids, orders, 91/75.

houre, sb. pl. hours of prayer, 103/11. houres, sb. pl. hours, 113/181. hous, sb. house, 1/18, 98/62, 63,

103/3, 120/417; -es, pl. 66/53. housell, sb. housel, eucharist, 107/ 128.

houshold, sb. household, 61/29, 66/56; -e, 90/36.

hous-nede, sb. household want, 82/110.

how, adv. 2/36, 17/85. how, rel. pron. who, 98/89. howsel, sb. eucharist, 66/72.

huge, adj. 5/124.

hunger, sb. 9/87, 46/203, 60/150; -e, 66/68.

hungren, vb. hunger, 97/50. hungry, sb. pl. hungry people, 38/ 124, 98/71.

hunte, vb. hunt, 26/60. hurd, sb. shepherd, 103/10.

hurte, vb. hurt, 68/137.

hyd, vb. pt. hid, 91/60; pp. 53/95, 61/17, 100/156, 105/53. hyde, vb. hide, 17/97, 37/84, 43/92, 93/132, 97/31, 99/118, 110/99, 114/219; -s, pl. 65/42; -st, 2.

sq. 111/131. hyde, sb. skin, 16/53. hyder, adv. hither, 14/2, 110/94.

hye, vb. hasten, 51/37, 109/53. hyze, adj. high, 11/71, 79/14. 80/22,

92/105; adv. 62/47, 91/84. hyze, vb. heighten, increase, 28 46. hyit, sb. height; on h., on high,

89/10, 107/109. hylt, sb. hilt, handle, 41/27. hym, pers. pron. him, 2/44, 5/152,

7/44, 61/24; them, 15/8.

hym-self, refl. pron. 2/52, 13/113, 16/65, 28/35; hym-seluen, 11/

54. hyndryng, ger. hindering, 70/52; sb. hindrance, 72/110.

hyne, sb. servant, 86/38; pl. 42/45. 66 66.

hyng, vb. hang, 62/45. hyre, sb. hire, wages, pay, 25/2.

41/9. hys, adj. his, 7/40, 104/31, 37.

hysse, poss. pron. his, 116/271; theirs, 86/32.

I, pers. pron. 6/5, 115/236, 240. rb. 2. sq. chatterest, iangelest.

94/163. iape, vb. jest, 27/63. ielous, adj. jealous, 101/23.

iewel, sb. jewel, 84/155; -s, pl. 83/141.

ilke, adj. same, 73/1.

in, prep. 1/6, 33/61, 61/20; adv. 101/4.

incertayn, adj. incertain, 103 58. incresyng, sb. increase, 28/38.

insigt, sb. insight, 114/234. in-stede, prep. instead, 107/127. into, prep. 41/16, 72/101, 93/147. inwith, adv. within, 115/264.

ioly, adj. joyful, 104/24. iour delay, sb. a day's delay, 31/

16, 32/24: -e, 31/8. ioye, sb. joy, 28/46, 50/2, 77/140, 89/24, 95/215, 105/55.

ioye, vb. rejoice, 100/137; -d, pl. 104/22.

is, vb. 3. sq. 1/19, 48 44, 86 13; 2. sg. 31/2; pl. 51/10, 61/19, 73/9; isse, 3. sg. 108/33, 117/300, 306; pl. 108/26.

it, pers. pron. 2/36, 76/105, 108 18. Iuge, sb. judge, 53/96, 69/10, 118/ 350, 119/389.

iugement, sb. judgment, 1/5, 55/7, 65 24, 111/108, 113/188.

Justice, sb. justice, judge, 9/10, 11, 62/58, 65/19, 71/59, 85/177.

kan, sb. can, 13/127, 14/158, 15/8,

106/95. kaue, sb. cave, 118/361.

kay, sb. key, 18/118, 22/230; -e, 100/133.

kelde, vb. cool, moderate, 24/61.

kele, vb. become cool, 101/15. ken, vb. know, 78/179; kenne, know, pay regard, teach, 31/115. 34/101, 54/113, 104/43. kep, sb. keep, attention, 46/208. kepe, vb. keep, 3/76, 13/144, 27/71, 40/183, 49/95, 50/xii, 51/21, 60/ 151; -d, pt. 101/14; -n, pl. 56/ 44, 106/104; -s, pl. 65/44. keper, sb. keeper, 108/19. kept, pp. 3/63, 9/15; kepyd, filled, 110/93. kerue, vb. carve, 9/84, 70/22. kesse, vb. kiss, 109/63. kille, vb. kill, 23/30, 57/66. kiss, vb. 48/47; -e, 61/15, 92/111. knaue, sb. boy, servant, thrall, 2/55, 18/100, 41/0, 46/101, 77/142, 90/ 47, 120/404; -s, pl. 100/152. knawe, vb. know, 71/86; -n, pp. 114/212. knet, vb. knit, 52/44; -e, pp. 90/27. knew, vb. pt. 21/199; -e, 16/52, 72/117.knot, sb. 77/136. **knowe**, vb. know, 1/8, 16/46, 21/ 205, 45/147, 79/1, 101/xxii, 5; -st, 2. sg. 77/151, 110/87; -], 3. sg. 16/66, 21/203, 63/73. knowleche, vb. acknowledge, con-

knoweleche, sb. knowledge, 87/64. knowelechyng, sb. knowledge, 16/

fess, 95/195. knyf, sb. knife, 30/105, 37/77, 100/

127, 106/77. kny3t, sb. knight, 11/57, 13/141, 60/ 145, 65/21, 81/69; pl. 60/152; -es, pl. 65/35.

knyt, vb. knit, 65/18; pp. 3/59, 23/ 13, 43/85.

knytte, vb. knit, 77/135.

kyd, vb. pt. made known, showed, 94/178; pp. 61/19; -de, pt. 95/190. **kylde**, pp. killed, 98/61.

kyn, sb. kin, 72/117, 82/111. kynde, adj. kind, gentle, 35/31,

42/61, 68/119. kynde, sb. kind, nature, manner. 8/74, 11/76, 69/151, 80/21, 104/ 33; kindness, 69/146.

kyndenes, sb. kindness, 50/105. **kyndel**, vb. kindle, 13/118.

kyng, sb. king, 10/18, 19; -es, pl. 14/149, 17/75; gen. sg. 52/58,

104/27; gen. pl. 27/15; -is, gen. sg. 61/9.

kyngdom, sb. kingdom, 3/73, 9/7, 6/21, 12/99, 14/153, 165, 96/5;

-es, pl. 56/25. kynne, sb. kin, kindred, 35/15, 75/ 77, 89/11; adj. 108/29, 109/64. kys, vb. kiss, part, treat kindly, reconcile, 6/163, 32/37, 73/15, 82/ 84; kysse, 4/119, 86/30.

labourrers, sb. gen. pl. labourers', 14/156.

lad, pp. led, 12/82; ladde, pt. 42/ 44, 120/396. lady, sb. 120/404.

laft, pp. left, 10/35, 86/13. lakkeb, vb. 3. sg. lacks, 38/116, 59/ 141, 64/8, 86/16.

lamed, pp. 9/5. land, sb. 2/28; -es, pl. 51/32, 66/62; -is, 29/62.

lane, adj. lean, 8/63. lanterne, sb. lantern, 33/62, 100/

153, 103/7.

large, adj. 3/67, 31/19. lasse, adj. less, 61/27, 104/30; vb. lessen, 28/40; -b, 3. sg. 106/92. last, adj. sup. 22/229; sb. 15/5, 94/ 161; -e, adj. 11/78, 117/301; sb.

67/109.last, vb. 110/87, 114/224; -ed, pt. 41/36.

lat, vb. let, 62/59, 81/63. late, adv. 19/146, 25/18, 68/127, 72/ 112, 79/16, 86/28.

lauzhe, vb. laugh, 55/147. laust, pp. received, 40/189. launce, sb. lance, 8/45; vb. 109/46. lawe, sb. law, 1/6, 3/63, 9/15, 11/50,

52, 65/46, 106/97, 99. laweles, adj. lawless, 11/63. lawhe, vb. laugh, 7/36; -n, pl. 71,

63; -b, 3. sg. 17/93. lay, sb. law, 22/246. lay, adj. unploughed, 19/142; -e,

29/62. lay, vb. 79/191; -d, pp. 28/27.

layne, vb. deny, conceal, 21/220. lease, sb. pasture-ground, 45/150. leche, sb. physician, 53/79; vb.

cure, 32/23. lecherye, sb. lechery, 18/125, 43/ III.

led, sb. lead, 116/295.

lede, vb. lead, 1 6, 10 29, 12/109, 14/150, 22/2, 28/21, 49/85, 99/94, 110/75; -n, pl. 36/57.

lef, sb. leaf, 112 139.

lef, adj. agreeable, beloved, willing, 2/51, 43/77, 93/141, 96/18.

left, pp. 116/286.

leg, sb. 68/139; leggis, pl. 66/57. leme, sb. limb, 54 105, 56/17. lemman, sb. lover, 13 121, 21/228.

lene, adj. lean, poor, 8 71; sb. 113/

199. lene, rb. lend, 98 75.

lengere, adv. comp. 49 71.

lengthe, sb. length, 4/102, 60/158. lent, vb. pt. 2 37, 30 82, 41 19, 63/ 74; pp. 3/83, 24/65, 105/50; -e, pt. 87/64.

Lenton, sb. Lent, 72/103.

lepe, vb. leap, 66/75.

lere, vb. learn, 2/49, 41/7, 56/41, 70/44, 104/36.

lerne, vb. learn, 20/172, 25/1, 73/1. 96/18; -st, 2. sg. 29/64; -p, 3. sg. 76/97; pl. 27/16, 28/32.

lernyng, sb. learning, 96/xxi.

les, sb. untruth, lie, 10/46.

les, sb. lace, snare, 14/150. les, adj. comp. less, 72/122, 116/ 278.

les, rb. pt. lost, 12/86, 71/62.

lese, vb. lose, spoil, 7/38, 32/44, 53/ 101, 54/126, 60/155, 80/47; -b, 3. sg. 106/92, 114/213; -th, 113/ 176.

lesse, adj. comp. 85/44; adv. 12/ 91, 24 50.

lessouns, sb. pl. lessons, 107/xxiv. lest, conj. 38/118, 93/148, 109/70.

lest, pp. lost, 54/132, 71/79. lest, vb. 3. sg. lists, desires, 21/228. lest, adj. sup. least, 19/154, 106/87; adv. 65/27; sb. 46/3; -e, adj. 2/30, 5/134, 30/85, 51/15, 106/85,

120/412, 418.

lesyng, sb. lie, falsehood, 30/86; -es, pl. 17/73, 100/136.

let, vb. 10/40, 91/86, 92/117, 102/ 31, 112/168; -e, 6/156, 8/55, 11/ 61, 63, 27/68, 28/28, 40/190; act, behave, 16/52; -en, 45/173.

let, vb. prevent, impede, cease, stop, 91/69; lette, 36/60, 67, 52/ 60, 70 53; 84/147; -n, 50/7; -d, pp. 31/14. letter, sh. pl. obstructers, 63 92. lettere, sb. pl. letters, 82/109.

lettred, sb. pl. lettered, educated

people, 25/22. leue, vb. leave, 27/66, 42/64, 48/51,

50/116, 69/149, 76/95, 87/52, 118/ 356; -b, 3. sg. 22/8, 23/24, 32, 40, 98 70; pl. 23, 33. leue, sb. leave, 7/43, 61/85, 78/

171, 82 84.

leue, rb. believe, 17/74, 38/109, 50/ 113; -d, pt. 38 113.

leue, rb. live, 10/48, 32/49.

leuere, adj. more agreeable, 77/144. leuynge, sb. living, 96/xxi.

leves, sb. pl. leaves, 78/188.

lewed, sb. pl. lewd, ignorant people, 25 22.

ley, rb. lay, 90/53. lif, sb. life, 107 110.

lize, vb. lie, utter falsehood, 25/6. lize, rb. lie, abide, remain, 5/149, 91/86; ligge, 19/142, 45/169.

lize, sb. corpse, 28/30. lijt, sb. light, 33 62.

list, adj. easy, 49/79. listeneb, rb. 3. sg. enlightens, 104/

listly, adv. easily, slightly, 55 140, 88 82.

lik, adj. like, 75,78; -e, 13,121, 14/

145, 39 156. likne, rb. liken, compare, 8 57, 64

9, 66 57, 66; -d, pp. 100 153. lippes, sb. pl. lips, 9/1, 18/117, 80/ 39, 83 130, 116 285.

list, sb. 3. sg. lists, pleases, 7 44. lite, adj. little, 30 90.

litel, adj. little, 22/231; adv. 30/

92, 33 65; litil, adj. 15 32, 92 109, 107 119; lityl, 49 69; adc. 52 51, 53 97, 78 173.

loke, vb. look, 2/59, 11/63, 15/33, 24/42, 25/6, 27/69, 38/131, 69/1, 75/83, 113/187.

loken, pp. locked up, 12 95.

lon, sb. loan, 50 110.

lond, sb. land, 12/110, 65,34; pl. 19/142; -e, 120/417; -es, pl. 18/ 130; -is, pl. 51 35.

long, adj. 12/89, 45/148, 89/4; adv. 4 105, 45 169, 69/18; -e, 24 59, 26/46, 37/85, 110/87, 120/402.

longe pyked, adj. ending in a long pike, 93 138.

longeb, vb. 3. sq. belongs, 88/106. long on, prep. owing to, 76/120. loo, interj. lo! 7/13, 16. look, vb. 15/35. look, sb. lock, 18/119. loos, adv. loose, 38/126. loos, sb. repute, character, 57/57. lopred, pp. coagulated, curdled, 110/82. lord, sb. 7/25, 39, 64/10, 113/176; -es, pl. 7/35, 8/64, 10/35; -is, pl. 12/101, 103, 13/129; gen. sq. 7/ 27, 61/18, 19, 116/290; **-ys**, pl. 17/75. lordschipe, sb. lordship, dominion, 35/27, 77/156; -s, pl. 78/158; lordship, 109/71; -e, 1/18. lordynges, sb. pl. lordings, 14/148. lore, sb. 54/116, 75/82, 99/98. lore, pp. lost, 53/86; lorn, 55/145, 31/15, 113/175, 118/360. los, sb. repute, honour, 9/5. lost, pp. 76/119; -e, pt. 49/70. 10), adj. loath, unwilling, averse, 26/42, 40/1, 47/11, 92/119. lobes, vb. 3, sq. loathes, dislikes, 93/141. loue, sb. love, 1/11, 2/40, 3/83, 15/ 18, 34/85, 73/3; -s, pl, 78/168. loue, vb. love, 2/43, 12/83, 26/40, 61/35, 73/2, 4, 26; -d, pt. 45/159, 50/113, 94/178; sb. pl. beloved friends, 49/98; -n, pl. 5/152; -st, 2. sg. 86/14; -b, 3. sg. 92/103. louer, sb. lover, 80/20, 101/23; -s. pl. 73/23.low, adj. 82/98; -e, 10/44, 86/17; sb. 23/29.lowely, adv, lowly, 91/59. lust, vb. 3. sg. pleases, 89/6. lust, sb. 108/16; -es, pl. 26/56, 79/ 195, 81/54, 90/42; -is, 27/64. ly, vb. lie, remain, abide, 26/38; -e, 26/46; 1ys, 3. sg. 7/39, 12/99, 20/ 165; 59/132, 60/165, 62/61, 71/75, 73/22, 105/62; 1yp, 93/146. lyd, sb. lid, cover, 101/158. lyf, sb. life, 28/20, 35/29, 36/71, 39/ 162, 44/118, 63/91, 112/164; a living person, 107/116. lyze, vb. lie, remain, 29/62, 32/47, 46/206; sb. 120/414. lyze, vb. lie, utter falsehood, 75/ 92.

lyge-man, sb. liege, vassal, 51/15. lyst, sb. light, 53/93, 104/33, 117/ 309. ly:tly, adv. easily, 43/96. lyitnes, sb. brightness, 43/109. lyk, adj. like, 37/98, 85/8, 101/18. lykne, vb. liken, 65/17, 25, 66/61; -d, pp. 78/187, 107/122. lym, sb. lime, 66/53. lymes, sb. pl. limbs, 65/39, 67/99, 68/123, 135, 87/76. lynage, sb. lineage, family, 26/50. 101/22. lys, vb. 3. sg. lends, grants, 89/ 100. lyte, adv. little, 3/82; adj. 76/115. lytel, adi. little, 51/28; sb. 114/ lyther, adj. dissolute, 90/52. lyue, vb. live, 1/23, 11/64, 15/19, 16/56, 59, 63/74, 72/103, 101/160; -d, pt. 94/174, 117/329; -n, pl. 81/73; -p, pl. 96/7; sg. 99/98. lyue, sb. life, 35/36, 88/91, 89/4; -s, pl. 51/32; gen. sg. 22/230, 119/378. lyuyng, ppr. 11/76; sb. 32/34, 61/ 26, 102/42; -e, adj. 113/170, 117/ 300. lyue, vb. believe, 106/93. lyueliche, adj. lovely, 104/18. lyuer, sb. liver, one who lives, 8/ 73; -e, 8/75, 11/77, 79, 12/95, 19/159, 96/24; -es, pl. 79/9, 10; lyuers, 81/66. maad, pp. made, 108/25. macche, sb. match, spouse, 93/152. mad, vb. pt. made, 43/107, 54/123; pp. 60/143, 64/1, 104/25.madde, vb. madden, 77/145. made, adj. mad, 90/37. made, vb. pt. 10/26, 13/129, 14/15, 31/3, 35/11; pp. 90/37. mageste, sb. majesty, 115/246. make, vb. 7/32, 8/56, 25/21, 26/52, 33/80, 63/70, 68/114, 74/43; -n, 6/157, 17/73, 69/6; -b, 3. sg. 11/ 80, 12/89, 14/157; -th, 4/106; pl. 2/53, 68/165; -d, pp. 31/2. makynge, sb. poem, 31/viii. maladye, sb. disease, 28/38. **malice**, sb. 11/59, 17/94 man, sb. 1/1, 13/134, 15/29, 26/41, 27/8, 113/169, 177.

manere, sb. manner, 29/56; gen. 69/2; -es, pl. 81/78.

manhed, sb. manhood, 45/166, 85/8; -e,59/118,88/108; manhode, 13/119.

mankynde, sb. mankind, 32/45, 48, 57, 64/1, 75/72, 79, 77/130, 85/7, 102/50, 113/189, 118/357.

mannes, sb. gen. man's, 5/137; mannys, 1/17, 10/18, 20/175, 27/ _1, 65/25, 79/190, 85/9, 11.

nany, adj. many a, 40/1, 66/70; pl. 17/89, 18/105, 111/129; -m. a, 94/174; m. on, 47/6.

marchaundes, sb. pl. merchants,

11/69, 66/51.

marchaunt, sb. merchant, 83/139. market, sb. 17/100; m.-beteres, sb. pl. idlers, 25/9.

martyres, sb. pl. martyrs, 80/31. maryage, sb. marriage, 26/52, 101/24.

masouncraft, sb. masonry, 62/

masse, sb. mass, 27/65, 61/25. master, sb. 36/68.

mat, adj. mate, 72/108, 111/124. matere, sb. matter, substance, 3/77, 31/2, 101/2, 112/138.

51/2, 101/2, 112/136. maþ, vb. 3. sy. makes, 14/159. matyns, sb. pl. matins, 27/65. maugre, prep. in spite of, 15/13;

mawgre, 81/56. may, sb. kinsman, 15/22.

may, vb. 2/46, 7/13, 13/133, 16/46, 33/81, 75/61; -st, 2. sg. 28/27, 32/20

mayde, sb. maid, 120 404; -n, 75/79, 77/130, 91/58, 100/125. maynt, pp. mixed, 57/63.

maynten, vb. maintain, 70/30; -e, 8/48, 12/104, 13/143, 25/11, 33/59, 36/68, 50/8, 52/56.

mayster, sb. master, 34/93, 41/10, 90/47, 100/148; -e, 66/77.

maystershepe, sb. mastership, 94/

maystres, sb. pl. masters, 66/79. maystrie, sb. mastery, a master's authority, victory, heroic deed, 39/145; maystrije, 19/139; maystry, 111/127, 112/140; -e, 51/39; maystry3es, pl. 54/121. me, sb. pl. nen, 11/58.

med, sb. med, reward, bribe, 118/

345; -e, 2/43, 3/68, 7/40, 15/11, 18/118, 56/38, 69/5.

medle, vb. meddle, mingle, 10/39, 95/198; -d, pp. 5/135, 30/101.

meke, adj. meek, 65/30, 84/169; sb. meekness, 84/157; -re, comp. 81/61.

meke, vb. humble, 87/51; -d, pt. 86/17, 87/49, 99/112.

mekely, adv. meekly, 82/105.

mekenesse, sb. meekness, 45/168, 82/97, 91/59.

mele, sb. meal, 68/118, 73/7, 74/35. melte, sb. melt, 86/27.

membres, sb. pl. limbs, 64/xv. men, sb. pl. 2/30, 53, 8/51, 15/17. mende, rb. amend, 19/134, 137, 23/ 22, 38/115, 42/56, 52/46, 63/70, 95/195; mendid, pp. 76/118.

mendement, sb. amendment, 102/38, 111/106, 114/202.

mendys, sb. pl. amends, 71/78. mene, sb. communion, community, 113/195.

mene, sb. mediator, 34/3. mene, sb. mean, 8/66.

ment, pp. meant, 30/85. mennys, sb. gen. pl. men's, 18/130, 33/68, 66/65, 109/52, 54.

mercie, sb. mercy, 5/130, 30/90, 112/166, 167, 114/212, 214, 216, 218; mercy, 2/52, 30/98, 32/42, 69/152; mercyes, pl. 78/177.

mercyable, sb. merciful, 98,65. meriest, adj. sup. merriest, 71/57. merkis, sb. pl. marks, 40/175. merþe, sb. mirth, 50/2, 93/130.

mery, adj. merry, 7/31, 26/35; adv. 105/55; -e, adj. 120/396. mes, sb. adversity, 11/78. messager, sb. messenger, 9/9; -es,

pl. 88/99. mest, sb. most, greatest, 46/3; adv.

mest, sb. most, greatest, 46/3; adv. 108/10, 12.

mesure, sb. measure, moderation, 3/61, 9/13, 36,54, 62/39, 68/118, 70/35.

met, vb. 66/71; pp. 91/65. mete, vb. measure, 36/54.

mete, sb. meat, food, 5/150, 8/55, 27/5, 36/70, 66/71, 73/7, 105/57; -s, pl. 82/104.

mett, sb. measure, 62/68.
meue, vb. move, excite, utter, 3/7/

meue, vb. move, excite, utter, 3/77, 17/79, 81/64.

mirre, sb. myrrh, 44/119. mo, adj. comp. more, 15/31, 28/36. moche, adj. much, 6/7, 63/69, 65/ 17, 100/138; many a, 112/162; sb. 63/75, 67/82, 70/43; adv. 110/ 103. mod, sb. mind, 77/145. moder, sb. mother, 101/11, 113/ 173, 116/268; gen. 93/149. mon, vb. may, shall, will, 4/119, 20/195, 22/5, 231, 24/59, 32/47, 92/96, 111/112, 112/161. mon, sb. moan, 48/46, 49/70; -e. 86/25. mone, sb. moon, 67/91. money, sb. 36/49. monthes, sb. pl. months, 113/198. mony, adj. pron. many, 17/73, 96/ 20, 100/151, 115/239; many a, 13/125; -e, 115/240. moo, adj. adv. comp. more, 83/126, 86/43. mood, sb. mind, disposition, 77/145, 81/61, 86/35more, adv. 4/93, 12/91, 50/115; adj. 83/126. morn, sb. morning, 31/10. morne), vb. 3. sg. mourns, 97/33. mornyng, sb. mourning, 35/38. morbere, sb. murder, 53/94, 56/20. mortkyn, sb. carcass, 91/86. morwe, sb. morning, 48/67. most, adj. adv. comp. 10/28, 15/35, 56/42, 65/27, 84/169, 106/87. most, vb. must, 52/60; -e, 109/47. mot, vb. must, may, shall, 2/38, 4/ 118, 16/67, 23/31, 33/76, 35/33, 83/139; -e, 97/49, 98/80. mobbes, sb. pl. moths, 112/159. mouel, vb. moves, 45/166. moun, vb. be allowed, 109/42, 117/ 322. mourned, vb. pt. 120/400. mouth, sb. 21/216; moup, 41/23, 43/101, 64/12, 67/85.mouynge, vb. motion, 120/411. mow, vb. may, 59/123, 84/147, 114/ 202; -e, 10/48, 27/25, 52/46, 83/ 123; -en, 109/69; mown, 38/123. mowe, vb. mow, 16/63, 86/23. mowntayne, sb. mountain, 61/17. mownten, vb. mount, 91/84. my, adj. 7/25, 49/85, 95/190. myche, adj. much, 84/159.

might, vb. pt. 8/46; migt, 42/62.

myst, sb. might, power, 44/145, 49/ 91, 51/38, 63/69, 65/17, 68/144, 89/14, 95/190. myst, vb. might, 30/100, 77/156; myght, 3/74, 5/132, 8/68; -e, 86/15; -est, 2. sg. 9/87, 50/115. 76/104. my;ty, adj. mighty, 68/122. mylde, adj. mild, 90/33, 94/162. myle, sb. mile, 17/92. mylk, sb, milk, 110/82. mylle, sb. mill, 67/108. mylt, sb. spleen, 41/26. myn, adj. my, 6/4, 32/44, 77/139; pron. mine, 74/54. myn, adv. less, 116/290. mynde, sb. mind, 11/79, 29/55, 40/ 12, 64/5, 67/112. mynne, vb. think, 112/166; mention, 69/16, 71/57. mynstrallis. sb. pl. minstrels, 17/82. myrrour, sb. mirror, 13/133. mys, adj. wrong, 62/57; adv. 2/31, 28/44; sb. 6/161, 38/135, 82/88, 99/119. mysbede, vb. injure, 10/31, 57/46, myscheue, vb. mischief, 3/76; 5/ 124; -s, pl. 97/32; myschyf, 118/340; myschyue, 108/24. mysdede, sb. misdeeds, trespasses, 97/34, 106/106. my-self, pron. myself, 108/25. mys-famed, vb. pt. defamed, 9/2. mys-ruling, sb. misrule, 62/45. mysse, sb. wrong, 4/103, 38/115, 86/28, 118/342; adj. 55/3; adv. 4/117, 92/107. myst, pp. missed, 22/231. mysvsed, pp. misused, 64/107. myue, vb. move, 106/91. naked, sb. pl. 38/124. name, sb. 7/20, 10/18, 12/81, 19/ 162, 43/81, 44/115. named, pp. called, 111/111. namly, adv. especially, 116/289.

nan, pron. none, 107/120.

nauel, $s\bar{b}$. navel, 113/171. nay, adv. 7/28, 17/91, 25/5; say n.,

nayled, pp. nailed, 92/115.

117/305.

nas, vb. pt. was not, 85/12.

turn apostate, 34/94; sb. denial,

ne, conj. nor, 24/58.

nede, sb. need, want, necessity, 4/ 94, 9/78, 86, 28/23, 29/71, 36/60, 46/200, 78/174; adv. needs, 2/38, 23/31; vb. need, be in poverty, 38/125, 40 183; -d, pt. 41/18; nedid, 50/101.

nedeles, adj. unnecessary, 58 91, 98 75; not wanting, not in need, 29/69, 96/14; sb. pl. 64/109, 72 94; nedles, adr. 70/36.

nedy, adj. needy, indigent, 29 65, 64/109.

neighbores, sb. pl. neighbours, 6

nekke, sb. neck, 65 17.

nel, vb. will not, 71 85, 95 197; -e. 35/20, 38/106; -en, pl. 18/106; nelt, 2. sg. 76/105, 77/141; nelle, pl. 81/52.

neme, vb. take, 41 18. nempned, vb. called, 103 3.

nere, adv. near, 21/213, 36/52, 94/ 184; nerre, comp. 68/144, 87/68. nes, rb. is not, 32/25, 45/148, 56 31, 81/60. 83 142, 103 2; nesse, 109/61.

nest, sb. abode, 48 68, 54 130. neber-ne, conj. neither-nor, 118

345. neuere, adj. never, 4 114, 12 86. 29/72, 44/146; n. be lasse, conj.

nevertheless, 56 38; neuer-belattere, 105/59. newe, adj. 15/15, 50/116, 71/84;

adr. anew, recently, 35/19, 38 115, 41/28, 93/135, 102/42.

newe fangyl, adj. desirous of new things, 56 32.

ney;, adv. near, 62/44, 87/96; -e, 51 26.

ney;ebore, sb. neighbour, 15 35; -s, pl. 36 70, 88 98; ney; ebour,

sg. 70/33. no, adj. 3/62, 8/73, 26/37, 44/131; adv. 63 94.

noblay, sb. nobleness, 53 86.

noblere, adj. comp. 60/2. nost, pron. nothing, 29 67, 107 8; adv. not, 35 35, 92 109, 98/75, 108/17; noght, 1 11.

nolde, vb. pt. would not, 41 41, 90, 38, 94/160, 120/399; -st, 2. sg. 8/ 72, 88 83.

nombre, sb. number, 113 198.

nombred, pp. counted, 5/133, 112

non, adj. no, 2/54, 18/106, 25/2, 115/255; pron. none, 23/14, 27/ 68, 70/44, 115/249.

none, sb. noon, 66/70.

noo, adj. no, 32/28; noon, 117/ 318.

nose, sb. 64/12.

nost, rb. 2. sq. doest not know, 24/ 50, 50/109, 103/57; not, 24/52; 3. sg. 22 7; pl. 105/74.

not, pron. nothing, 2/37, 29/65, 78. 170; adv. not, 1/12, 54/108, 102/

nober, pron. neither, 68, 130. nober-ne, conj. neither-nor, 15/

18, 25, 15, 61, 29, 103/3. nouellerye, sb. innovation, 11 63. noust, adr. not, 28 45; sb. nothing, 21/227, nothingness,

nousten, pron. nothing, 30/81. noumbre, sb. number, 111/130.

noumbred, pp. 115/239. now, adv. 17 82, 65/41. nowhere, adv. 45/175.

nowbe, adr. now, 29/51. noy:e, sb. trouble, 10 12.

noys, sb. public talk, 15/17. nyce, sb. delicacy, effeminacy, 83/ 122.

nye, sb. annovance, 27 70. ny;e, vb. annoy, injure, 34/99; -d, pt. 58 101.

nyit, sb. night, 8, 74, 25 18, 67, 103, 104/33; -es, pl. 107/3.

nyl, vb. will not, 3,63, 9 15, 17 90, 34/101; nylle, 23/14, 82/94; nylt, 2. sg. 76, 101.

nys, vb. is not, 2 37, 9 4, 13/131. nys, adj. silly, foolish, wicked, 2 45, 7 34, 32 43, 61/3, 80/24, 118/ 348; sb. pl. 60, 162.

o, interj. 45 163. o, pron. num. 20, 193, 39 142, 67/91; ind. art. a, 1/14, 37/83, 38/110, 39/ 142.

o, prep. of, on, 35 17, 40/182, 192, 112 142; o brod, abroad, 59 110; o ferre, afar, 68 138; o mys, amiss, 29 74, 32 36; o syde, aside, 93 130; o tway, in two, 17 70; o two, 24/69, 89/20; o twynne, 30 111, 75/85, 87/56.

obley, sb. oblate, wafer, 105/65. obedience, sb. 84/149. obedyent, adj. obedient, 79/4. occupacioun, sb. occupation, business, 79/11. of, prep. 1/23, 33/72, 79/11. office, sb. 73/18.officere, sb. officer, 21/210. offre, vb. offer, 84/172. offryng, sb. offering, sacrifice, 107/ 121. ofte, adj. 10/43; adv. 6/166, 14/ 146, 69/18; -re, comp. 37/95. offys, sb. office, 19/164. old, adj. 8/53, 11/65; -e, 106/97, 101; sb. pl. 59/131. old horded, adj. hoarded up long since, 6/165. on, prep. 3/81, 41/40, 86/37. on, num. pron. 6/7, 11/56, 15/28, 32/31, 83/140; at o., 47/8, 16, 24, 65/39. ones, adv. num. once, 30/94, 52/43, 75/69; at o., 103/4. oo, num. one, 11/50, 22/241, 23/13; oon, 52/68, 72/115. open, adj. 67/84, 92/118; vb. 113/ opert, adv. openly, 82/96. or, conj. 1/18, 5/150, 30/108, 79/16. or, conj. before, 3/87, 5/143, 10/39, 95/207.ordayned, pp. established, 55/4. ordeyne, vb. ordain, settle, establish, 38/135; -d, pt. 101/20; pp. 62/58, 83/137. ordinaunce, sb. ordinance, law, 3/ ordre, sb. order, rule, estate, 13/142, 60/143,65/21,105/47; holy orders, 38/121. ordynaunce, sb. ordinance, ordnance, 14/159, 51/30, 59/138, 104/ oreson, sb. prayer, supplication, 84/164. ost, sb. host, wafer, 104/38, 106/83. other—or, conj. either—or, 7/21. oper, adv. otherwise, 80/40. other, pron. 10/31, 14/155; ober, 15/22, 52/68; pl. 61/13; -e, 62/51, 67/99; pl. 39/156, 82/91, 99/ 94; othere, 3/78; oberes, gen. pl. 28/34.opes, sb. pl. oaths, 93/139.

ouer, prep. 1/10; -e, 33/57; adv. 91/71, 106/99. ouerall, adv, everywhere, 98/90. ouercome, vb. overcome, 89/111. ouerhope, sb. excess of hope, 5/ 129, 32/47, 95/201. ouer moche, adv. overmuch, 33/ 67. ougt, pron. adv. anything, anyhow, 29/66, 42/57, 64/8, 68/132. ou; te, vb. ought, 73/10. oure, adj. our, 51/19, 20, 26, 29; pron. ours, 77/135, 104/15; oures, 113/179 oure-self, pron. ourselves, 50/5, 51/ ouris, sb. pl. miseries, wretchedness, 113/183. out, adv. 76/93, 82/109, 92/118, 101/7; -e, 98/75; out of, prep. 5/126, 9/82, without, 18/190. out-casten, pp. outcast, 44/134. outeray, vb. exceed, excel, 49/84. outrage, sb. 37/100. outrage, vb. exceed, go too far, 83/121. overtvlt, vb. overtilt, overturn, 57/ owe, vb. possess, 96/19, 27; -th, 3, sq. 2/27. owe, adj. own, 44/136; -n, 2/33, 16/38, 45, 47, 19/163. oyle, sb. oil, 111/135. palays, sb. palace, 48/68. palfray, sb. palfrey, 7/14. pape, sb. pope, 46/192.29/78: paradis. sb. paradise. paradys, 41/16, 47/17, 20. parage, sb. equality, quality, 59/ 116. paramour, sb. love, 18/125. parauenture, adv. perhaps, parcel, sb. part, 51/16. parchemyn, sb. parchment, 78/ 182. parfitnesse, sb. perfection, 119/38o. parfyt, adj. perfect, 73/27, 75/70, 79/2, 80/21. parische, sb. parish, 61/30. parischen, sb. parishioner, 40/174. parlement, sb. parliament, meeting, 12/97, 55/4, 113/190. part, sb. 71/61; vb. 24/69; -e, 30/

111, 83/144, 106/84; -n, 75/85; -d, pt. 101/12; pp. 89/13, 105/70. partener, sb. partner, 54/107.

partie, sb. pl. parties, 113/174; -s, 6/164.

party, sb. 10/36, 61/36; -e, 68/ 130; cause, matter, 30,92; pl. 17/76; -es, 10/19.

pas, sb. state, condition, 109/72. paske lomb, sb. paschal lamb, 107/126.

passe, vb. pass, surpass, 21/212. 222, 52/60, 106/105, 110/88; -d, adj. past, 115/261; -\(\beta\), 3. sg. 60/147, 77/133, 104/14, 113/200.

passioun, sb. passion, suffering,

94/156, 102/51.

passyng, prep. beyond, 63/76. past, prep. 64 101; adv. 112 147, 114/220; -e, 67/111.

paternoster, sb. the Lord's Prayer, 25/15.

pauylon, sb. pavilion, 117/313. pawe, rb. fawn, caress, 15/21.

pay, sb. 32/30; vb. 20/182, 25/2; -e, 57/52, 70/23; -ed, pp. 40/ 179, 54/131.

payment, sb. 30/92.

payne, sb. pain, penalty, 21 218, 118/344, 346; -s, pl. 22/237, 72/ III.

paynte, vb. paint, colour, 36/43. pece, sb. piece, 106 86; -s, pl. 105/69

pees, sb. peace, 117/308.

penaunce, sb. 34/4, 65/29, 76/95; penury, 98/74.

penyworth, sb. pennyworth, 62/38. pere, sb. peer, equal, associate, 23 21, 40/3, 43/107, 78/186, 94/180;

pl. 49 75. perfeccyone, sb. perfection, 53 102. perile, sb. peril, 62/43, 64 101, 65

pertely, adv. openly, 104/35. peryl, sb. peril, 113/174; -e, 71 75, 82/86.

perylous, adj. perilous, 25/vi. pes, sb. peace, 9/iii, 8, 16, 10/24,

32, 34/ix, 8, 16, 92 91. pete, sb. a fibre of peat; counte

at o p., care a straw, a rush about, 39/142.

peyne, sb. pain, 111/124; -s. pl. 119/385.

POEMS (OXF.).

philosofres, sb. philosophers, 11/

pilage, sb. pillage, 8/68. place, sb. 20/189, 87/59; pl. 94/

planted, vb. pt. 42/49.

plas, sb. place, 43/97, 77/152. plastre, sb. plaster, 30/107.

plate, sb. 116/295.

play, sb. 7/42, 17/94, 21/222, 94/ 172; vb. 68/117; -e, 7/36, 70/24. playn, sb. plain, 17/100.

playn, vb. complain, 89/7; -e, 68/ 113, 95/210.

playnt, sb. complaint, 54/110, 57/ 60, 89 9, 92/109; -es, pl. 56/43.

plente, sb. plenty, 66/56, 87/67. plesande, adj. pleasant, 91/75.

plese, rb. please, 7/25, 21/211, 32/ 35, 45 [149; -n, pl. 45/151; -b, 3, sq. 20. 182, 74 32.

plete, vb. plead, 36,62, 85/181. pleyneb, rb. 3. sq. complains, 71/ 77.

pleynt, sb. complaint, 69/10, 94/ 167, 95/185.

plough, sb. 13/143, 66 63. plyze, vb. bend, depart, 30/102. plyt, sb. condition, 65 40.

pondryng, sb. musing, 72 111. popes, sb. pl. 14/148.

pore, adj. poor 4 89, 12 104; sb. 5/138; pl. 38/125, 42/54, 65/32, 96/1; poverty, 84 157.

posteles, sb. pl. apostles, 47,26; postles, 32/21.

pouert, sb. poverty, 49/90; -e, 45/ 158, 65/30, 87/65, 95/211, 96/3, 111/124.

pouste, sb. power, strength, 51 20, 104/31, 106/92.

power, sb. 54/105; -e, 21/212, 31/ poynt, sb. point, degree, 41/27, 56/

34; -es, pl. 38/116, 71/79. poyntel, sb. pointel, 116/296.

poyson, sb. poison, 57,63. pray, sb. prey, due, property, 19/

150, 25/7, 31/14, 75/63, 118/338. pray, vb. 7/15, 20/174, 53/87.

prayer, sb. 119/380.

preche, vb. preach, 16/41, 57, 25/ 27, 31/18, 71/65, 96/24, 100/130; prechyng, pp. 17/81; sb. 100/ 155.

N

propre, sb. purple, 83/141.

-est. sup. 26/31.

2. sq. 112/140, 141.

prouerbe, sb. proverb, 15/33.

prosperite, sb. prosperity, 87/71.

proud, adj. 39/150; -e, 81/64;

proue, vb. prove, try, learn, 47/25,

78/187, 111/127, 115/260; -st.

14/148.

precyous, adj. precious, 75/65.

prented, vb. pt. printed, 78/183.

pres, vb. press, hasten, 98/87.

preson, sb. prison, 7/30.

prelat, sb. prelate, 71/65; -es, pl.

pres, sb. press, crowd, abundance,

10/38, 14/158, 116/280, 117/312.

presone, vb. imprison, 98/78; -d, prow, sb. profit, 88/83, 106/101. pp. 98/61. prowesse, sb. prowess, 7/19. presoneres, sb. pl. prisoners, 38/126. pryde, sb. pride, 43/111, 82/100. prynce, sb. prince, 5/142, 72/119; presoun, sb. prison, 8/52, 15/14, -s, pl. 38/108. 26/45. prest, adj. ready, 65/29. pryncypal, adj. principal, 64/14. prest, sb. priest, 34/3, 35/34, 40/ prys, sb. prize, honour, 59/133, 60/ 186, 61/25, 105/67; -es, pl. 17/ 167; price, value, 19/162, 41/22, 81, 103/7; -is, 39/162. 71/73; o prys, precious, noble, presthod, sb. priesthood, clergy, 47/15, 80/18, 94/175. 65/26, pulle, vb. pull, 63/99. preue, vb. prove, 3/79, 15/33, 24/ punsched, pp. punished, 33/55. punysche, vb. punish, 10/20. 47, 106/95; -s, 3. sg. 9/88, 12/ 98; pl. 5/125; -th, pl. 7/34, 9/ puple, sb. people, 1/10, 13/130, 131, 19/150, 42/43. preue, adj. privy, 4/99. purchas, vb. purchase, 97/47; -est, preuete, sb. secrecy, 61/20. 2, sg. 108/15. purgatorie, sb. purgatory, 29/78; preuey, adj. privy, secret, 1/3, 23/ 27. 62/44. purgatory, 95/206. preugly, adv. privily, 52/54, 96/8. purpos, sb. purpose, talk, 12/92, preuyte, sb. secrecy, 21/213; -e. 17/91. 21/203, 71/87. purs, sb. purse, 67/82. preye, vb. pray, 60/148, 69/148, pursue, vb. 99/119, 124, 116/291; 103/69; -d, pt. 67/85; st, 2. sg. -d, pp. 99/113; -st, 2, sg. 112/ 143; -th, 3. sg. 2/50. 102/39; -b, 3. sg. 92/104. preyer, sb. prayer, 20/183, 65/29; put, vb. 10/25, 20/196, 44/122, 93/ -e, 31/114, 80/37, 84/164; -s, pl. py3t, pp. pitched, 117/313. 80/39. preyse, vb. praise, 16/50, 26/32; pyke, vb. pick, steal, 19/50; -b, -de, pt. 6/7. 3, sg. 52/64. pride, $sb.\ 40/30$. pyle, sb. pile, large building, 13/ principal, adj. 119/373; sb. 75/72; adv. 74/60. pyle, sb. cross, 50/107. pris, sb. price, 76/102. pyn, sb. pain, suffering, woe, 46/ 203; -e, 2/28, 29/77, 33/70, 41/ prisoners, sb. pl. 26/39. 37, 66/68; -es, pl. 48/45, 101/13. prisoun, sb. prison, 108/15. professed, adj. belonging to a pyne, vb. torment, grieve, 15/21, religious order, 80/44. pynne, vb. pin, 67/83, 75/87, 97/45. profit, sb. 1/4, 12/98, 23/28. pyt, vb. lay or amass in a pit, profre, vb. offer, 87/62; -b, 3. sg. 48/40, 73/15. 43/87. profyt, sb. profit, 6/68, 28/45, 56/ 42, 62/52, 78/160; -es, pl. 12/ quake, vb. 46/189, 54/123. quantite, sb. quantity, 66/50. profytable, adj. profitable, 98/69. quaue, vb. quiver, 106/88. profyte, vb. profit, 77/154. qued, sb. evil, 29/60. propre, sb. property, 81/59. queme, vb. please, 60/163.

vb. quench, 11/60; quenche. quenchyng, sb. 102/32.

quenes, sb. gen. sg. 91/76.

querel, sb. quarrel, cause, 39/139; querell, 12/87, 56/16, 99/116. querte, sb. integrity, 50/3.

queryle, sb. quarrel, suit, 59/113. queste, sb. quest, inquest, 85/179; -s, pl. 36/65.

questyon, sb. question, 81/49. queynt, adj. quaint, ingenious,

quite, adj. quit, 30/92.

quod, vb. pt. said, 67,87, 68/113. quyk, adj. quick, living, 21/198,

104/18, 106/100; sb. 105/68. quykeneb, vb. 3. sq. quickens, 89/3. quyt, vb. quit, requite, 72/96; -e, 2/40, 33/88, 50/105, 56/35, 76/113, 98/77; -est, 2. sg. 74/48.

raft, vb. pt. robbed, 71/62; pp. 71/ 58, 89/14.

rage, vb. 26/53.

ran, vb. pt. 114/233, 115/240. rank, adj. luxuriant, 6/2. ransake, vb. ransack, 109/58.

rapere, adv. rather, 11/55, 59, 32/

35, 87/72.

raue, vb. rave, rage, 2/53, 90/43. rauenere, sb. plunderer, 64/108. raunsom, sb. ransom, 47/15. raysed, pp. raised, 54/129. rebell, sb. rebel, 39/140; adj. 71/

60; vb. 23/36.

rebuke, $vb.\ 25/26$. recche, vb. reck, care, 15/24, 16/40, 17/72, 18/128, 19/136; -b, 3. sg. 58/97.

recchelesly, adv. recklessly, 19/

reche, vb. reach, give, 96/20. recheles, adj. reckless, 64/110; -ly,

adv. 25/17.

red, sb. counsel, 56/23, 106/104; vb.36/63; -e, 4/109, 9/78, 34/102, 118/341; read, 36/63, 82/108, 119/ 392.

red, adj. 104/44; -e, 42/44, 45/177. redresse, vb. redress, remedy, 69/

11, 72/126. redy, adj. ready, 11/70, 24/56, 80/

32, 95/204, 119/392. refuse, vb. 24/43, 48/41, 66/77 116/283; -ed, pp. 69/149, 93/ 127; -yd, 120/405; refuyse, 4/ 100.

regyon, sb. region, country, 52/70. reherse, vb. rehearse, tell, 58/83. reiovs, vb. rejoice, 103/12; -e, 97/

rekene, vb. reckon, give account, 22/223, 37/92, 103, 46/210, 86/36, 100/149; -ed, pp. 4/118.

rekenyng, sb. reckoning, account, 2/29, 30/83, 46/196, 61/31, 114/231; -es, pl. 14/151.

rekne, vb. reckon, 35/39.

relegeon, sb. religion, 79/12. relegous, sb. pl. monks, 60/147, 149.

reles, sb. release, 13/126, 117/314. releues, vb. pl. relieve, 12/103. religeon, sb. 80/25, 29, 82/105, 84/

religeoun, vb. monastic life, 38/

religeous, sb. monk, 82/81, 83/139: religiousness, 81/60, 83/142.

religioun, sb. religion, 79/xviii; religyoun, 55/142.

reme, sb. realm, territory, 51, 19, 32,

remedie, sb. remedy, 119/366. remembraunce, sb. remembrance, 69/xvi.

remewe, vb. remove, 81/74, 115/ 253; sb. 96/16.

renne, sb. run, 32/52, 34/100, 37/ 103, 66/75, 103/61, 105/47; -st. 2. sg. 43/104; -b, 3. sg. 91/81.

renoun, sb. renown, 108/9; renowne, 54/126.

rent, sb. income, revenue, due, 2/39, 30/87, 51/15, 63/76, 73/17, 113/186; -is, pl. 12/102.

repe, vb. reap, 16/63, 86/23, 100/ 128; -th, 3. sg. 113/180.

repentance, sb. 55/149; repentaunce, 29/55, 34/6, 48/43. 55/ 149.

repente, vb. repent, 43 95, 75 75, 80/46, 97/35, 116/279.

reportours, sb. pl. denouncers, 9/2. repref, sb. reproof, 40/2, 42/73, 62/ 53; repreue, 17/77.

repreue, vb. reprove. disown, 28 34, 85/3; -ed, pp. 61/6; -est, 2. sg. 108/12; -b, 3. sg. 57/74, 93/137. repryue, vb. reprove, 108/22.

33/63, 50/111. roo, sb. roe, 64/110.

rerage, sb. arrearage, 34/100, 37/ rood, sb. cross, 86/37. 103, 50/111. roof, sb. 17/98. rered, vb. pt. resuscitated, 117/311. rosted, vb. imperat. pl. roast, 107/ res. sb. race, attack, 11/70, 50/7. 126. resceueb, vb. 3. sq. receives, 106/77. rote, vb. rot, 119/375. resceyue, vb. receive, 5/140, 26/58, roten, adi, rotten, 112/158. 82/99, 107/128; -d, pp. 49/77; rotenesse, sb. rottenness, filth, 116/ -þ, pl. 37/74. 267. reson, sb. reason, 18/107, 110, 38/ roue, sb. bad cotton, 111/123. rougt, vb. pt. cared, 10/159 130; resoun, 4/102, 15/34, 48/50, 54/134, 65/45. roupe, sb. sorrow, pity, 70/37. ressayue, vb. receive, 34/87, 61/7; rowe, vb. row, 14/3. -b, 3. sg. 13/126, 32/33, 103/4; rowne, vb. deliberate, 52/54. rule, sb. 33/61, 71/80, 83/114, 137; pl. 105/73.ressavuour. sb. pl. receivers, 105/61. vb. govern, behave, 14/156, 27/65. 50/108, 62/39, 71/90, 90/46. rest, sb. 41/30, 65/27, 71/80; -e, 9/iii, 96/16. rupe, sb. pity, 43/78. rest, vb. 49/71, 114/202; -e, 67/98. ruyde, adj. rude, 96/25. rybbes, sb. pl. ribs, 65/41, 45. restore, vb. 4/92, 75/84, 88/77, 92/ ryche, adj. rich, 6/2. ryches, sb. pl. riches, abundance, 6/2, 13/119, 75/86. resurexioun, sb. resurrection, 94/ 158. reue, vb. rob, despoil, 23/38, 25/13, ryde, vb. ride, 7/14, 99/114; sb. 49/89; sb. 81/60. 120/414. reueraunce, sb. reverence, 14/162; ryst, sb. right, 9/9, 10, 30/101, 89/ reverence, 4/89, 25/23, 46/193, 16, 95/188; adj. 15/20, 62/66, 83/127. 120/395; adv.13/143, 107/8.reward, sb. 80/47. rewe, vb. pity, repent, 4/92, 45/160. ryatwis, adj. righteous, 55/7. 50/117, 72/106; -b, pl. 98/74. rystwisnes, sb. righteousness, 95/ rewme, sb. realm, 3/74. 197, 97/50. reyse, vb. raise, 119/377 ry;twys, adj. righteous, 39/138, 71/90, 89/15; sb. 71/106; adv. 33/ riche, adj. rich, 4/89, 52/41, 69/6; -r, comp. 5/147; -st, sup. 71/57; 65. riche, sb. 5/138; -s, gen. sq. **ryht**, sb. right, 2/36. 25/7.rys, vb. rise, 5/143; -e, 3/63, 9/15, 18/103, 23/36, 37/82, 66/73; -en, riches, sb. pl. 22/239; -se, 2/53, 7/17, 22/233, 28/25. 117/301. ride, $vb.\ 66/51$. ryue, sb. reef, portion of a sail, 28/ rist, adv. right, just, 22/5, 36/44, 90/39, 100/153; adj. 10/25, 47/23, 51/40; -e, 9/14; right, sb. 5/135; sacrament, sb. 80/36, 105/56.rist, 13/138, 54/127. sad, adj. 26/33. saf, adj. safe, 39/159. ristwis, adj. righteous, 37/90. ritwisnes, sb. righteousness, 92/ saip, vb. 3. sg. says, 33/55. 105; -se, 88/105. **sake**, sb. sack, 101/7. riztwys, sb. justice, 88/106. sake, sb.; for s., 95/213. salt, sb. 100/145, 146. rise, vb. 6/165, 10/27, 48/43; -b, saluacioun, sb. salvation, 106/80. 3. sq. 10/33. **robbe**, vb. rob, 13/117, 23/38, 62/62. salue, sb. salve, 40/178; vb. 30/109; rode, sb. rood, cross, 43/98; rode -b, 3. sq. 45/164. tre, 76/116, 86/18. same, adj. 5/148, 16/63, 45/182. rolle, sb. roll, list, 119/392; -s, pl. **sample**, sb. example, 46/185, 109/

sank, vb. pt. fell, 6/4.

sare, adv. sorely, 41/39.

sarmon, sb. sermon, 40/5.

sat, vb. pt. s. sore, lay heavy upon the heart, 85/11.

saue, prep. safe, except, 41/34, 75/

saue, sb. save, heal, 18/108, 28/44, 50/xii, 62/55, 72/98, 75/88, 120/ 408; -d, pp. 28/42, 44/145; -s, $\cdot 2. sq. 100/150; 3. sq. 100/146; -p,$ 3. sq. 12/110.

saucour, sb. saviour, 103/9.

saust, adj. reconciled, peaceful, 40/ 191; -e, 47/35.

sausten, vb. reconcile, make peace, 40/179.

saule, sb. soul, 108/15.

sauour, sb. savour, scent, 6/4, 55/

sauyd, sb. pl. saved people, 120/

sauyour, sb. saviour, 117/304.

sawe, vb. pt. saw, 6/5.

sawe, sb. saying, decree, commandment, 23/34, 38/109, 57/55.

sawytenyng, sb. harmony, 47/25, reconciliation, 33;

nyng, 48/41. say, vb. 4/109, 7/41, 17/72, 33/78, 104/1; -e, 67/101, 108/36; -n, 89/1, 5, 40/169; -d, pp. said, 40/ 177, 92/110; -de, 35/18; pt. 92/ 98, 94/163, 95/186; -b, 3. sg. says, 57/55, 78/177, 93/140; -be, 113/ 179.

sayle, vb. sail, 14/3, 28/27.

sayn, pp. seen, 17/98; -e, 21/ 223.

schal, vb. shall, 16/63, 34/104, 100/ 135, 119/377; -t, 2. sg. 107/7.

schamed, pp. shamed, 119/387. sche, pron. she, 90/28, 94/174.

schendis, vb. 3. sq. disgraces, spoils, 64/107; schendys, pl. 110/103. schewe, vb. show, 37/83, 118/349.

schold, vb. pt. should, 4/100; -e, 120/405.

schul, vb. shall, 113/191.

schuld, vb. pt. should, 103/69; -e, 37/94.

schullen, vb. shall, 118/333. sclaundre, sb. slander, 85/190; sb. 82/94, 95; s. -scol, 72/101.

scoles, sb. pl. school, 7/33.

score, sb. 119/393.

scorne, vb. scorn, 72/102; -d, pp.

se, vb. see, 13/133, 16/46, 43/92, 76/ 109, 114/216; -n, 106/88; -ne, pp. 117/318.

seche, vb. seek, 31/6, 36/47, 108/31; -þ, 3. sg. 9/5, 19/158.

sechyng, sb. visitation, 110/93.

sed, sb. seed, 113/194; -e, 19/ 141.

sede, vb. seed, 3/62, 59/142.

see, sb. sea, 2/28, 7/29, 14/1, 17/99; pl. -s, 12/110.

see, vb. 7/17, 85/2, 99/99; -st, 2. sg. 26/34, 105/45, 109/50; -b, 3. sg. 53/93, 63/71, 105/56; -th, 4/95, 103.

seed, sb. 16/61, 18/129, 22/6, 86/21, 101/3.

sees, vb. cease, 92/95, 117/310.

seib, 3. sg. says, 41/15, 94/177. sek, adj. sick, 27/5.

seke, vb. seek, 29/50, 90/55.

selde, adv. seldom, 66/71. sele, sb. seal, 78/184.

self, adj. same, 113/183.

self forgete, sb. self-forgetfulness, 82/10í.

selle, vb. sell, 11/55, 24/54, 36/53, 76/102, 83/138; -n, pl. 44/135.

selue, *adj.* same, 59/116. semblaunt, sb. appearance, show, 13/122.

seme, vb. seem, 83/118, 105/69; -s, 3. sg. 90/29; -b, 36/55; -st, 107/

sen, prep. since, 31/10; conj. 114/

send, vb. 55/148; -e, 27/13, 38/ 105, 46/207, 74/53; -es, 3. sg. 5/ 151, 9/8.

sene, pp. seen, 117/318; adv. evidently, 113/197.

sengyl, adj. simple, 105/66.

sent, vb. pt. 2/34; pp. 50/109, 111/ 112; -e, pt. 102/49.

sercle, sb. circle, 51/10, 52/41.

serkis, sb. shirts, 40/172.

seruage, sb. servitude, 94/182. seruant, sb. servant, 7/40, 66/77, 80; gen. 66/78; seruaunt, 25/2,

26/41, 38/130, 90/36, 100/148. serue, vb. serve, deserve, 5/148, 24/

46, 39/146, 73/25; -d, pt. 7/24, 45/157; pp. 31/5; -st, 2. sg. 38/

```
122, 43/82; -b, 3. sq. 32/31;
  seruyd, pp. 111/126.
seruice, sb. service, 100/148; ser-
                                       shep, sb. pl. sheep, 39/157, 45/150,
  uyce, 5/140, 24/44, 32/40, 80/30;
  seruyse, 44/130.
                                       sheteb, vb. 3. sq. shoots, 16/58.
ses, vb. cease, 12/102, 87/46.
                                       shew, vb. show, appear, 108/38,
seson, sb. season, time, 58/79.
set, vb. 21/218, 51/28, 63/24, 68/141,
  69/7, 71/73; -e, 37/102.
                                        shipman craft, sb. seamanship, 62/
sete, vb. seat, tribunal, 61/17, 77/
  139, 82/99, 85/177, 105/63.
                                        shippes, sb. gen. sg. ship's, 60/154.
sette, vb. set, 27/15, 76/102; pt. 55/144, 110/88; pp. 38/131, 113/199;
                                        sholde, sb. shoal, shallow, 60/146.
                                        shon, sb. pl. shoes, 93/138.
  -st, 2. sq. pt. 112/153; pres. 43/
                                        shon, vb. pt. shone, 50/118.
  112; settyst, 108/11.
                                        shop, vb. pt. made, formed, 73/11;
setteb, vb. 3. sq. sits, 90/39.
seuen, num. seven, 103/66; -e, 37/
  89, 41/34, 64/2, 103/67.
sewe, vb. follow, 72/115, 81/78,
  102/46, 115/255.
sewe, vb. pt. sowed, 100/128, 113/
  180.
sey, vb. say, 55/148; -e, 93/142; -n, pl. 37/90, 71/63; -st, 2. sg.
  43/102; -b, 3. sq. 90/43, 93/143;
  -de, pt. 47/28.
seyze, vb. pt. saw, 67/92.
seyntes, sb. pl. saints, 37/102, 77/
   140, 83/127, 107/109; gen. 75/
shadew, sb. shadow,
                            117/328;
  -e, 104/32; shadow, 113/182;
  shadwe, 104/39.
shaft, sb. 71/64.
shake, vb.\ 46/183.
shal, vb. shall, 111/117, 10/32, 81/
   55, 88/96, 13/135; shall, 87/68;
   shalt, 2, sq. 34/97, 100/149, 106/
shame, sb. 7/21, 16/47, 36/45, 53/
   75; vb. 58/80.
shameles, sb. pl. shameless people,
   18/127.
shamely, adv. shamefully, 44/124,
   57/61, 58/85.
shapere, sb. creator, 119/371.
sharp, adj. 84/174.
sharpe, vb. sharpen, 45/171.
shaue, vb. shave, 62/53.
she, pron. 26/53, 94/173, 175.
shed, vb. pt. 42/53.
shede, vb. shed, 4/118, 8/62, 58/86.
shede, vb. separate, 44/142.
sheldis, sb. pl. shields, 44/143
```

shende, vb. disgrace, spoil, 58/85;

shorn, pp. cut, 113/171. short, adj. 40/6, 113/170. shoue, pp. shoved, excluded, 111/ 121. shoures, sb. pl. abundance, 84/174. shrede, sb. shred, 2/30. shrewes, sb. pl. wicked people, 96/ 21. shrift, sb. confession, 80/35; wib sh. wynde, by a verbal confession, 29/53; -e, 20/180, 37/83, 94. shronken, adj. shrunken, 116/285. shryfte, sb. confession, 83/123. shrynes, sb. pl. shrines, 75/67. shryue, vb. shrive, 35/34. shul, vb. shall, 49/86, 100/131. shuld, vb. pt. should, 6/162, 24/62, 28/34, 35, 46/207; -e, 10/19, 32/ 52, 37/95, 62/59, 75/88; -est, 2. sg. 87/51.shuldres, sb. pl. shoulders, 65/33. shyne, vb. shine, appear, 50/119, 101/159; -en, 104/40; shynyng, ppr. 35/10, 49/76; -es, pl. 105/53.**sight**, $sb.\ 5/133$. signyfye, vb. signify, 51/9; -b, pl. 51/17. sikirnes, sb. security, 28/42. singulere, sb. private interest, 71/ sire, sb. sir, master, 17/84, 36/68. sib, conj. since, 24/55, 69, 27/10, 96/9, 102/41. sitte, sb. sitting, 120/413, 414. **skape**, vb. escape, 109/62, skatre, vb. scatter, 14/158, 44/144; skaterid, pp. 51/23. skille, sb. skill, discernment, bal-

-s, 3. sg. 23/23; shent, pp. 3/66,

111/131; -e, 7/15, 17/100, 36/42,

53/74; -ed, pp. 59/118, 98/64.

55/137, 63/77, 92/96.

62/46.

-e, 109/66.

pl. 28/33; skillis, 18/107.
skippe, vb. 3. sq. skips, 72/101.
skole, sb. school, 27/9, 92/92.
skore, sb. score, 102/47.
skorn, sb. scorn, 55/147; -e, 37/78, 80/36, 91/68; -es, pl. 18/129.
skorne, vb. scorn, 7/35, 24/28.
skorneles, adj. without scorn, 27/68.

ance, reason; 54/111, 81/50; -s,

skornyng, *sb.* scorn, 36/55. **skourged**, *pp.* scourged, 64/155. **skourges**, *sb.* scourges, 44/136, 92/

skulked, vb. pt. 69/8. skylle, sb. skill, reason, 24/46, 72/ 102; -s, pl. 4/90.

skyn, sb. skin, 65/42, 70/22, 110/89; skynne, 27/7, 101/8. slake, vb. slacken, 95/187, 215.

slay, sb. sley, a weaver's reed, 15/6. slayn, pp. slain, 18/101.

slauşt, sb. manslaughter, 56/18. **sle**, vb. slay, 46/186, 48/54, 100/ 140; -s, 3. sg. 10/22; -þ, 118/337. **slep**, sb. slip, curdled milk, 110/82.

slepe, vb. sleep, 60/149, 67/87, 103/69, 108/29.

sleper, adj. slippery, unstable, 110/

77. slees, vb. slays, 92/89; sleep, 89/2. slet, sb. sleet, 66/69.

slete, vb. set loose at, 35/22. sley;t, sb. slyness, 89/12; -e, 95/

86. slidre, adj. slippery, 22/2. slo. vb. slay, 62/62; -n, 47/14; sloo, 99/94.

sloupe, sb. sloth, 56/13, 70/42. slow, adj. 70/44, 90/54.

slow, vb. pt. slew, destroyed, 41/33, 45/180; -en, pl. 54/124. slyde, vb. slide, slip, 37/82

slyde, vb. slide, slip, 37/82.
slyder, adj. slippery, 110/92; -e,
15/7.

slyme, sb. slime, 112/137, 119/372. smal, adj. small, 61/26, 119/375; smalle, 37/93.

smerte, vb. feel pain, 70/21. smyt, vb. smite, strike, destri

smyt, vb. smite, strike, destroy, 72/97; **smyte**, 3/84, 30/95, 53/79, 76/117, 92/111, 112/148. **snapere**, vb. push against, 17/90.

snow, sb. 66/69.

so, adr. 5/148, 13/116, 27/65, 65/46.

socour, *sb.* succour, help, 57/45. **sodeyn**, *adj.* sudden, passionate, 34/101, 56/18; *adv.* 24/54, 35/26;

-ly, 108/12, 109/67. soget, adj. subject, 1/20; sb. 21/

219, 23/21; sogettis, pl. 69/7. sogt, vb. pt. sought, 118/358; pp.

108/23, 112/154, 160. solace, sb. pleasure, 111/133. sold, pp. 6/156, 76/123; -e, 56/28. solempne, adj. solemn, 46/1.

solempnyte, sb. solemnity, 104/25. so-liche, adv. likewise, 4/116. solpep, vb. pollutes, 110/78.

solpeb, vb. pollutes, 110/78. son, adv. soon, 117/318. sonde, sb. ordinance, 35/37.

sondes, sb. pl. sands, 18/132. sone, adv. soon, 17/74, 50/109, 66/78, 91/66; -re, comp. 10/37.

sone, sb. son, 23/12, 62/41, 89/16, 90/25, 26; -s, gen. 88/107.

song, sb. 17/82, 89/6, 104/24; -e, 120/396; -es, pl. 98/72.

120/396; -es, pt. 98/72. sonne, sb. sun, 50/118.

sooles, sb. pl. sustenance, 69/8. sopere, sb. supper, 104/19, 34. sore, adj. 92/106, 87/73; adv. 43/

95, 85/11, 97/33; sb. 40/178; -s, pl. 30/109.

sorefull, sb. pl. sorrowful people, 98/71.

sorw, sb. sorrow, 72/115; -e, 26/33, 36, 47, 50/4, 53/98, 72/122. sorwefull, sb. pl. sorrowful people,

98/72; sorwful, adj. 109/45. sob, adj. true, pleasing, 21/224, 32/ 50; sb. truth, 10/46; sothe, 18/

104; -es, adv. forsooth, 109/61. sobfast, adj. true, honest, 104/31, 107/112.

sobnes, sb. truth, 19/157.

sotyl, adj. subtle, 27/1; -e, 58/81;
sotyll, 97/60; sotyly, adv. 57/
63.

souerayn, sb. sovereign, master, 7/ 43; souereyn, adj. 64/10; sb. 21/219; -s, pl. 69/7.

21/219; -s, pt. 63/7. sought, pp. sought, visited, 64/2, 65/ 47; pt. 19/157, 29/69, 74/58, 80/ 36; -e, 90/26; -est, 108/13, 119/

385. soul, sb. 108/33, 35; -e, 2/39, 12/ 93, 94, 80/18, 21; gen. 72/110,

93, 94, 80/18, 21; gen. 72/110, 88, 80, 105/58; -es, pl. 28, 44, 40/170, 80/23; gen. 40/181.

soule leche, sb. soul-curer, 42/52, spys, sb. species, 105/60. spyseb, vb. despises, 99/108. soun, sb. sound, word, 94/162, 109/ spyten, pp. cut with a chisel, engraved, 116/297. sounde, adj. sound, 39/159. squyers, sb. squires, noblemen, 11/ soure, adj. sour, 77/131. 69, 65/36. sowe, vb. sow, 16/61, 18/129, 19/41, staat, sb. state, pomp, show, 80/34. 86/21. stable, adj. 98/67. stad, pp. put off, separated, 68/129. sowke, vb. suck, 93/150. sown, sb. sound, renown, 53/86; stakes, sb. pl. 63/99. -e, 54/110.stal, vb. pt. stole, 26/44. sowned, vb. pt. sounded, 104/23. stalworbe, adj. stalwart, 68/122; space, sb. time, 55/149. $sb.\ 51/38.$ spak, vb. pt. spoke, 47/27. stalworply, adv. bravely, 25/11. spare, vb. 26/39, 41/41, 72/119, 107/ stande, vb. stand, 20/194, 78/171, 115/240; -s, 3. sg. 63/90, 66/64; I; -st, 108/17. speche, sb. speech, saying, 8/65, stant, 3. sg. st. drede, stands in dread, 19/140. 11/65, 32/21, 53/74, 100/132.16/43; stat, sb. state, class, condition, speciale, adv. specially, office, 61/10, 69/151, 90/48, 113/ in specyale, 11/49, 84/146; specyall, adj. 104/17. 183; -e, 1/1, 47/34, 106/91. spede, vb. speed, make succeed, 2/ stature, sb. 106/91. 46, 20/175, 49/87, 59/126, 82/112, statute, sb. 21/217. 120/415. staunche, vb. stanch, stop, 15/17. **speke**, $v\bar{b}$, speak, 9/3, 16/49, 27/67, sted, sb. stead, 107/119; -e, 9/11, 33/84; -n, 84/146; -st, 8/66; 42/48.-b, 3. sg. 71/72, 76/97; pl. 80/40. stede, sb. steed, 5/142, 7/14. spende, vb. spend, 46/198, 63/76, stedefast, adj. steadfast, 110/81. 78/173; -st, 43/100; spendid, steke, vb. stick, shut, put, 9/1, 76/ pt. 2. sq. 37/100; spendyng, ger. 110,83/130; -n,75/87; -est, 42/2/31; spent, pt. 2. sg. 30/84. 69. spere, sb. spear, 8/45, 42/53, 79/189, stel, sb. steel, 93/124. stele, vb. steal, withdraw secretly. 92/117. **spettes**, vb. spits, 91/72. pass unnoticed, 19/153, 45/161, 46/188, 48/55, 68/128; -st, 20/ spices, sb. pl. species, 105/51. spilde, pp. ruined, spoiled, 97/59. 190. spille, vb. shed, spoil, 22/6, 54/106, steppe, sb. step, 119/394; -s, pl. 115/239; steppys, 112/155. 87/60; be spoiled, 24/62. spirit, sb. 65/30, 84/157, 96/1. stere, vb. stir, 67/108. spirituale, sb. spirituals, 84/150. stereth, vb. steers, 3/65. spiritualte, sb. spirituality, 65/28, sterne, adj. stern, 100/139. 71/68, 79/8. sterue, vb. starve, 9/87. spirytuall, adj. spiritual, 44/129. steryng, sb. stirring, 40/x. spoken, pp. 11/65, 12/90, 18/114, stille, adj. still, quiet, 16/51. stille, adv. still, yet, 43/80. 52/52.stoden, vb. pt. pl. stood, 15/7. sporne, vb. spurn, stumble, 49/86. stok, sb. stock, log, 49/86. spot, sb. 29/54. spotel, sb. spittle, 108/18. stoken, pp. stuck, put, established, 12/93, 15/14, 18/117, 47/5, 105/65. spottes, sb. pl. spots, 99/106. spouse, sb. 101/124. stoles, sb. pl. stools, 69/4. spouse breche, sb. pl. adulterers, stomble, vb. stumble, 17/89; -n, 43/102. 35/26.

ston, sb. stone, 49/86, 66/53, 76;

-es, pl. 16/62, 18/131, 51/10, 17. stonde, vb. stand, 8/47, 57/58, 66/

sprad, pp. spread, 68/131.

sprong, vb. pt. sprung, 54/122.

spye, vb. espy, 26/30; **spye**₃, 29/54.

74, 82/81, 82/91; sb. standing, 120/413; -es, sg. 53/77, 98/67; pl. st. non awe, stand in no awe, 23/37; -is, sg. 55/6.

stood, vb. pt. 81/63.

storble, vb. disturb, injure, 36/60. store, vb. hoard, treasure, value, 11/67, 40/181, 51/28, 75/86, 86/13.

storme, sb. storm, 7/30.

stoute, adj. stout, obstinate, 98/73, 100/139.

straunge, adj. strange, 70/34.

stray, sb. 15/14, 18/110. **stre**, sb. straw, 7/26, 17/89; **-s**, pl.

13/118. strengere, adj. comp. stronger, 10/

36. strength & strength 48/52: -e

strengb, sb. strength, 48/52; -e, 24/57, 43/110, 64/106, 67/111; strengthe, 113/178.

strete, sb. street, 39/166.

striged, pp. destroyed, 23/31; strigeb, sg. 104/32.

strokes, sb. pl. 46/118, 48/55.

strong, adj. 44/146, 54/124; -e, 115/260.

stroi;e, vb. destroy, spoils, 8/62; **stroye**, 6/158, 54/130, 112/144; -þ, pl. 99/122; **stroy**;e, 8/60.

stryf, sb. strife, 37/76, 38/107, 58/86, 63/78, 89, 105/75.

strype, vb. strip, 7/26.

stryue, vb. strive, 35/13, 37; -n, pt. pl. strove, 47/36.

stryues, sb. pl. strifes, 117/326.

stubble, sb. 112/142.

stuffe, vb. stuff, provide, 59/121; -d, pp. 11/67.

styf, adj. stiff, 5/142; styffere, comp. 93/124.

styke, vb. stick, 63/100.

style, sb. stile, 13/127, 17/90; -s, pl. 63/99.

style, sb. suit, case, 59/114. **stylle**, adj. still, 40/6.

stylle, adj. still, 40/6. stynk, sb. stench, 119/369; -e, 116/267.

stynkyng, ppr. stinking, 91/88, 101/8; -e, 117/312.

styred, pp. stirred, 188/333; -e, 112/139.

suche, adj. pron. 3/76, 4/100, 6/157, 70/40.

suchon, *pron*. such a one, 111/128. **suffre**, vb. suffer, 52/45, 69/20; -b,

sg. 63/81, 83; -d, pt. 42/58, 60, 86/20.

suget, adj. subject, 4/102, 78/165.
sulpep, rb. pollutes, 99/106; sulpid, pp. 49/74.

sum, pron. many a one, 15/9; somewhat, 50/105; summe, pl.

some, 3/83, 10/46, 61/27. sumtyme, adv. once, formerly, 18/

121, 123, 126, 20/185, 89/22. sumwhat, pron. somewhat, 7/16, 40/177; adv. 91/63.

sune, sb. sun, 49/76.

suppose, vb. 106/83.

suspende, vb. suspends, 71/68. susspescioun, sb. suspicion, 82/ 88.

sustenaunce, sb. sustenance, 62/39; sustynaunce, 14/156.

swelle, vb. swell, 26/51. swerd, sb. sword, 3/84, 20/196, 23/

39, 44/141, 59/120, 92/94. swere, vb. swear, 21/219, 25/6, 26/

48, 70/25, 87/75. swerve, get, 9/82.

swete, vb. sweat, 38/134.
swete, adj. sweet, 74/53, 75 90; sb. sweetness, 77/131; swetnes, 75/

swolwe, vb. swallow, 108/18.

sword, sb. 60/159.

sworn, pp. 13/137, 31/12. swyn, sb. hog, 46/201.

swynke, vb. toil, drudge, 38/134, 68/117.

sybbe, sb. relation, 75/77.

syde, sb. side, 48/43, 51/37, 120/395; -s, pl. 65/44.

sy₃e, vb. sink, pass, 109/51.
sy₃t, sb. sight, 47/21, 49/76, 91, 53/95, 77/134, 105/54, 106/107.
syk, adj. 68/126, 79/191; sb. pl. 38/

syk, adj. 68/126, 79/191; sb. pl. 38 125; -e, 26/39; adj. 84/173.

sykenes, sb, sickness, 95/211; -se, 24/52, 87/65.

syker, adj. sure, 49/95; -e, 24/51. **sykernes**, sb. surety, 17/71, 32/34; -se, 24/55, 84/160.

syknes, sb. sickness, 42/76, 49/90, 72/115, 123.

sylence, sb. silence, 83/129, 84/145. syluer, sb. silver, 75/65.

symonye, *sb.* simony, 63/81, 92. **symple**, *adj.* simple, 53/104, 61/25. **synewes**, *sb. pl.* sinews, 110/90.

synful, adj. 40/172, 118/343; sb. ten, num. 1/11, 33/83, 53/99, 61/28. 118/337. tenauntes, sb. gen. pl. tenants', 56/ synge, vb. sing, 16/41, 22/234, 61/ 43. 25, 90/35, 98/72; -s, sg. 105/55. tendere, adj. tender, 93/123. synguler, adj. singular, particular, tent, sb. attention, 51/13. 1/4, 33/60, 62/52; -e, 23/28. teres, sb. pl. tears, 43/94. syngulerte, sb. self-interest, 58/81. terme, sb. term, 113/199. synne, $sb. \sin, 2/42, 14/164, 63/91$; teth, sb. pl. teeth, 116/286. pl. 110/103; -s, pl. 34/4, 69/150. teyze, vb. tie, 18/113; -d, pp. 58/ synne, vb. 5/129, 35/18; -n, pl. TÓO. than, adv. 5/147; then, 3/64, 8/55; pan, than, 11/55; then, 13/120, 32/47; -d, pp. 110/103. synnyng, ger. sinning, 116/277. syre, sb. sir, 7/17. 15/28, 25/24, 68/143, 83/128. syse, sb. size, 3/61, 116/285; -in s. thank, sb. 6/ii, 7; vb. 39/147; -e, properly, 66/75. 87/66. systren, sb. pl. sisters, 116/270. thanne, adv. then, 91/81; banne, syt, vb. sit, have authority, 23/15, 37/76, 72/111, 91/84. 70/53; -e, 116/291. thar, vb. need, 3/80, 12/108, 15/24, sybes, sb. pl. times, 37/89. 38/134, 78/170, 176, 82/85. that, rel. pron. 1/1, 22, 2/54, 66/74; table, sb. 98/71, 104/19. what, 38/114, 62/59, 66, 105/61; tacche, sb. nipple, 93/150. he who, 63/75, 96/13; those who, 79/15, 109/64. tak, vb. take, 15/25, 16/43, 61/15, 62/38, 81/62; -e, 3/78, 31/20, 61/30, 95/211; pp. 89/19; -est, pat, dem. adj. that, 3/57, 11/80, 63/ 87, 67/103; pron. 2/40, 14/166. 108/27; -e β , sg.5/145,31/17; -en, bat, conj. that, 11/75, 67/86. pl. 3/86.thay, pron. they, 3/85, 97/48; bay, tale, sb. 6/154, 22/240. 66/59, 104/22, 109/70, 117/322 tale-tellere, sb. talebearer, 10/17. the, def. art. 1/11, 19; be, 10/47, talkyng, sb. talk, 6/6. 25/27.the, pers. pron. thee, 4/115, 15/32, 22/244, 60/xiv. tame, adj. 92/98, 96/23, 99/112; -d, pp. 111/109. tan, vb. take, 33/83; pp. 37/81, the, dem. pron. pl. those, 25/25. 114/227. the, adv. 4/107, 61/1; be, 10/37, tapetis, sb. pl. carpets, 59/134. 61/3.tary, vb. tarry, detain, delay, 78/ thede, sb. people, 6/158; bede, 56/170, 93/131. tauerne, sb. tavern, 25/19. peder, adv. thither, 55/5, 59/122; tauzt, pp. taught, 104/36; pt. 32/ -e, 14/2.21; -e, 40/186, 47/33. thee, vb. prosper, 71/85. teche, vb. teach, 25/25, 39/167, 42/ bef, sb. thief, 15/9; thef, 42/71. 51, 53/76, 96/18; 3. sg. 16/59. theft, sb. 97/60; pefte, 58/81, 65/teeth, sb. pl. 3/85, opposition, con-23. tradiction, 81/56; teeb, 15/13. bei, pron. they, 10/30. telle, vb. tell, 10/46, 20/187, 32/50, then, conj. 116/272; adv. 27/72; penne, 103/59, 105/45. 42/62, 69/19, 86/15; -n, pl. 70/38;-s, sg. 92/91; -p, 21/204, 71/75. penk, vb. think, 28/48, 31/10, 76/11,telyep, vb. tills, procures, 29/61. 81/53, 58; -e, 76/115, 107/5; thenke, 3/82, 15/16; penkes, temperal, adj. temporal, 44/135; sg. 111/113; benkeb, 37/78, 53/ -e, 84/152.75,99/110; thenkep, 8/61, 9/81. temperalte, sb. temporality, 33/60, 71/67, 79/11. bens, adv. thence, 17/92, 94/160. temptest, vb. 43/106. ther, adv. dem. there, 8/72, 113/

191; -e, thereof, 3/82; pere, 8/

61, 16/45, 29/79; ther, rel. 1/13,

temptacion, sb. temptation, 87/62,

102/30; -s, pl. 80/27, 83/125.

10/31; -e as, 3/67; pere, 12/103, 65/47; p. as, 12/109, 69/147. therfore, adv. therefore, 4/90; per-

fore, 97/39.

perof, adv. thereof, 27/63, 32/48, 107/4.

perout, adv. outside, 26/38. pertille, adv. thereto, 90/44.

perto, adv. thereto, 35/35, 50/6. **per-vpon**, adv. thereupon, 21/218. **perwip**, adv. therewith, 95/198;

ther-with, 8/46. peryn, adv. therein, 43/80; theryn,

4/107; per-ynne, 28/36, 87/66, 117/326. thes. adi, this. 4/119: -e. 2/26;

pes, 50/4; these, 38/128, 67/102; pron. this, 107/126, 117/323; these, 117/305; pese, 64/8; adj. 76/96.

besternesse, sb. gloom, 117/327. theues, sb. pl. thieves, 5/122, 43/122

103. there muon 1

they, pron. 1/20, 10/35; pey, 65/45. pi, adj. thy, 15/25, 26, 36, 22/4.

thies, sb. pl. thighs, 66/49. pirled, vb. pt. thirled, 41/32.

pirst, sb. thirst, 98/63.

this, pron. 68/141; adj. 5/123; pis, pron. 45/156, 91/63; adj. 104/18; bisse, pron. 92/102.

po, adj. those, 17/87, 37/92; pron. 19/141, 53/103; tho, 5/151, 15/

23.

tho, adv. then, 26/45. pos, conj. because, 108/39.

bojt, sb. thought, 108/21, 117/321; pl. 112/156.

thonder, sb. thunder, 46/187. thong, sb. 70/22.

ponk, sb. thank, 71/76; thonk, 7/ 15, 31; -e, 8/45; ponke, vb. 56/

16. thoo, pron. those, 119/364; boo, 101/14

101/14. thorn, sb. 92/115; -es, pl. 16/62,

18/130. thou, pron. 4/115, 116; pou, 15/

thou, pron. 4/115, 116; pou, 15/

thou;, conj. though, 16/57; since, 87/57; bou;, 7/26, 9/4; if, 53/103, 66/79; b.-so, as-so, 65/45. bou;t, vb. pt. 2. sg. thoughtest, 25/14; -e, pl. 41/20.

boust, sb. thought, 17/92, 50/103,
75/90; -es, pl. 91/84; -is, 82/
93.

pousandes, sb. pl. thousands, 78/179; pousandis, 78/180.

thow, pron. thou, 33/81, 48/49; bow, 15/28.

thow, conj. though, 1/20.

thowsand, sb. thousand, 105/63; bousand, adj. 106/90.

pral, sb. thrall, 94/171.

praldom, sb. thraldom, 35/28, 80/

pralle, sb. thrall, 34/91. prawe, vb. throw, 38/108.

thre, num. three, 35/20, 67/105; pre, 23/13, 15, 45/178, 50/106, 64/5.

threp, sb. quarrel, 63/78.

pret, vb. threaten, 11/58; -e, 30/94, 36/46, 70/27, 91/73.

thretyng, sb. threatening, 44/140. pridde, adj. third, 10/41, 47/25; thridde, 72/116.

thrift, sb. savings, 97/58. thro, sb. throe, pang, 63/78.

prong, sb. throng, crowd, 25/9, 44/

thryue, vb. thrive, 19/146, 27/70, 71/85.

purgh, prep. through, 32/44, 39/153, 41/26; thurgh, 4/95.

purgh shoue, pp. pierced, 79/189. purh sourt, pp. sought through, 21/225.

purst, sb. thirst, 66/68.

thursten, vb. pl. thirst, 97/50. pursty, sb. pl. thirsty people, 38/

thus, adv. 2/49, 26/57; bus, 25/8,

26/40, 79/15. **thy**, adj. 2/31, 109/65; **þy**, 15/27,

25/2, 27/11; thyn, 2/44; þyn, 16/37, 26/43, 59, 49/82; thyn, pron. thine, 2/37, 86/34; þyn, 49/97; -e, 41/42.

thyng, sb. thing, 2/33, 20/170; pyng, 49/97, 104/29; -es, pl. 41/7, 64/2, 105/47; -is, 105/49.

bynk, rb. think, remember, 103/10; -e, thinks, seems, 108/40;

thynke, 110/104. bys, pron. this, 103/3; adj. these,

65/39. thy-self, pron. thyself, 1/8; by-

self, 27/8, 48/49, 87/59; byselue, 1/9, 50/108; by-seluen, 26/40: thy-seluen, 9/85. pysse, pron. this, 116/269. bysternesse, sb. gloom, 119/370. til, conj. till, 12/102, 26/47, 96/28, 102/38; tille, prep. 87/62. tixt, sb, text, 89/1. to, prep. 1/5, 20, 46/183, 202; adv. too, 3/82, 17/24, 24/49, 49/69. to, sb. toe, 62/46; -es, pl. 66/65, 73; -n, 50/102. to-broken, pp. broken to pieces, 52/50.to-day, adv. 21/198, 44/122. togedere, adv. together, 8/95, 14/ 3; to-gyder, 110/90; to-gydre, 52/67, 65/18, 77/128, 88/93. tok, vb. pt. took, 6/6, 54/124, 77/130, 115/245; -e, 85/8. tokene, sb. token, sign, 105/48. tokenynges, ppr. pl. being tokens, 105/51.told, pp. 6/154, 40/185; -e, 104/ 26, 30; pt. 21/220. toles, sb. pl. tools, 69/2. tombe, sb. tomb, 28/30. to-morwe, adv. to-morrow, 35/25. 44/122. tong, sb. tongue, 75/91: -e, 58/ 100, 100/133. tonsure, sb. 84/161. too, sb. toe, 68/137; -n, pl. 66/74. tormente, vb. torment, 110/102. torne, vb. turn, 117/325. to shidre, vb. to be scattered, 22/4, touche, sb. touch, 120/411. toun, sb. town, 10/34, 13/124, 21/ 206, 66/54. toures, sb. pl. towers, 57/49. tow, adj. tough, 41/35. towche, sb. touch, 82/88; -s, pl. 82/89, 93. towched, pp. touched, 116/290. town, sb. 61/34; -e, 54/118; -es, pl. 8/70, 51/19. tras, sb. trace, 109/70. trauayle, sb. work, service, 7/38, 80/29; travel, 7/23; vb. work. 66/67. trauaylyng, pp. working, 6/9; travelling, 7/29. tre, sb. tree, 41/21, 66/60, 103/2. trede, vb. tread, 5/134, 59/134; -b, sq. 91/80.

treson, sb. treason, 52/69, 57/61; -s. pl. 62/61; tresoun, 53/94. tresory, sb. treasury, 11/66; -e, treasures, 28/19. tresour, sb. treasure, 55/140: -e. 23/9, 77/133. trespace, sb. trespass, 52/63: trespas, pl. 36/45, 43/95, 45/172, 111/ trespas, vb. trespass, offend, 76/ 117, 87/63, 95/196; -e, 52/51. trespasour, sb. trespasser, 6/63. trest, vb. trust, 21/226; -e, 62/ trete, sb. treaty, 59/124, 60/155, 69/17; vb. treat, 13/120, 35/16, 24, 32, 36/56, 59/137, 77/143; -þ, pl. 48/45; -d, pp. 35/17. treuth, sb. 3/78, 9/iii. trewe, sb. faithfulness, 35/17; adj. true, truthful, 7/38, 40, 15/13, 16/ 55, 58/97, 66/62, 66; sb. pl. 99/ 122; adv. 50/114, 96/10, 102/48; -re, adj. comp. 77/132; -st, sup. 101/23. trewe loue, sb. true-love, 78/185. trewes, sb. truce, peace, 35/20. trize, vb. sift, 27/14. triste, vb. trust, 69/17. troupe, sb. truth, 9/4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15/10, 23/23; gen. 18/117; -s, gen. 18/113; trouhte, 9/2. trowe, vb. trust, 9/86, 16/60, 29/76, 90/32, 112/149; -st, 114/229; -d, pp. 70/25.trussen, vb. truss, 55/140. truste, vb. trust, 31/113, 70/51. trusty, adj. 16/60. try, vb. sift, 113/191; -ed, pp. 52/ 69; tryze, 10/47. trynyte, sb. trinity, 56/36. tryp, sb. trip, 5/134. tunge, sb. tongue, 18/113. turment, sb. torment, 92/90, 111/ 134. turmentest, vb. tormentest, 86/41; turmentynge, pp. 115/264. turne, vb. turn, 35/35, 44/133, 62/ 60, 80/39, 86/30; -st, 94/168; -p, pl. 44/128; -d, pp. 18/122, 124, 54/127, 115/263; turnyd, 115/ 265. twelve, 104/21; twelfe, num. twelue, 1/11, 53/99. twenty, num. 106/84.

twev. num. two, 117/303; two, 4/90, 62/38, 67/92.

twyje, adv. twice, 30/94

twyggis, sb. pl. twigs, 54/119. twyn, vb. part, escape, 110/95.

twynkelynge, sb. twinkling, 120/ 412.

twynne, vb. part, separate, 78/168, 82/94, 109/62, 112/168; -n, 17/

tvde. sb. holiday service, 103/11. tydynges, sb. pl. tidings, news,

82/107. tyzed, pp. tied, 58/100.

tyl, conj. till, 21/205, 41/42, 65/47, 92/116; tyll, 29/50; tylle, 114/

tylyers, sb. pl. tillers, husbandmen, 66/62.

tyme, sb. time, 9/84, 21/226, 50/4, 68/120, 104/17, 113/170; by t., betime, 17/151; -s, pl. 21/224, 36/50, 53/92, 109/54.

tyraunt, sb. tyrant, 34/93; -es. gen. 63/91; pl. 4/91, 100/139.

tyrauntrie, sb. tyranny, 62 62; tyrauntrye, 1/3, 43/110. tybe, sb. tithe, 31/20.

vanyte, sb. vanity, 79/14, 82/102, 94/172.

vaunsement, sb. advancement, 73/ 21.

vauntage, sb. advantage, gain, 53/ 103, 59/132.

vaynglory, sb. vainglory, 16/54, 79/14, 84/174.

vengeance, sb. 77/149; vengeaunce, 1/15, 3/84, 9/8, 13/139,

18/115, 119, 38/105. venyale, adj. venial, pardonable, 37/85.

vertew, sb. pl. virtues, 113/184; vertue, sq. 15/10, 16/50, 81/76, 118/352; pl. 116/278; -s, 2/54, 5/143, 15 23, 19/142, 24/68, 113 191.

vertuous, adj. virtuous, 20/173. vessel, sb. 110/92.

vice, sb. 15/10; -s, pl. 16/42, 80/ 41, 86/43.

vicious, adj. 63/85.

victor, sb. victory, 54/131; -ie, 12/112; -y, 80/28; -ye, 20/194, 48/53.

vilonve, sb, villainy, 18/124.

visage, sb. 27/62.

visite, vb. visit, 26/39. vnbende, vb. unbend, 58/87.

vnbynde, vb. unbind, 29/52, 42/59. 62/150, 80/19; vnbende, 3. sg. 64/7.

vnclene, adj. unclean, 113/194. vnder, prep. under, 6/3, 62/46, 69/

4, 91/60; adv. 91/71. vndercrepe, vb. creep privily into. 103/71.

vnderstandyng, ger. understanding, 89/3.

vnderstond, vb. understand, 96/26;

-es. sq. 17/85, 19/133. vndertake, vb. undertake, 70/31.

vndir, prep. under, 105/68. vneuene, adv. unevenly, improperlv. 32/40.

vnhende, adj. impolite, 15/27. vnkonnyng, adj. unskilled,

vnkynde, adj. unkind, 41/11, 48/ 39, 67/106, 85/3; -ly, adj. unnatural, 63/83.

vnloken, pp. unlocked, 46/2, 52/

vnnehe, adv. hardly, 18/128. vnstable, adj. unstable, fickle, 56/

vn-tyme, adv. untimely, soon, 56/

vnwetand, adv. unwittingly, 21/ 213.

vnwrojt, adj. unborn, 117/319. vnwys, sb. unwise, 39/167: -e adj. 116/286.

vnvte, sb. unity, harmony, 1/30, 13/130, 33/63, 58/106, 89/18. voyce, sb. voice, 21/207.

voyde, vb. avoid, leave, 20/189; -b. sq. 17/95.

voys, sb. voice, talk, 15/19, 19/155. vowtrye, sb. adultery, 94/174. vp, adv. up, 37/82, 117/306.

vybreyde, rb. upbraids, 93/139. vppon, prep. upon, 29/54, 73/22.

vp-rist, adv. upright, 100/147. vp so doun, adv. upside down, 80/ 38; 94/168, 108/13.

vs, pron. us, 3/81, 16/44.

vse, vb. use, 23/33, 24/42, 103/66; -d, pt. 18/123, 120/407; pp. 69/

151, 93 123.

vsurve, sb. usury, 63/83, 92. 165; -ed, pp. 105/70, 112/158, vttere-more, adv. farther outside, 116/283; -ede, 13/119. wastours, sb. pl. wasters, 58/92. 58/107. vyage, sb. expedition, 59/119. vyces, sb. pl. vices, 5/143, 24/68, 83/116, 113/184. vylenye, sb. villainy, 91/68. vyne, sb. vine, 42/49. vys, sb. vice, 2/42, 80/20, 118/ 352. vysement, sb. deliberation, 58/93. vysite, vb. visit, 38/125. wacche, sb. watch, vigil, 83/113; vb. 83/121.wage, sb. wages, 26/55. 352. wastes, sb. weights, 36/51. **wake**, vb. 34/7, 67/88, 70/29, 89/23,95/209; wakyng, sb. waking, 84/ walke, vb. walk, 25/18, 119/368. wan, vb. pt. won, got, 59/136; 2. sg. 30/84, 37/99, 101/4. wande, sb. wand, rod, 109/48, 115/ 262; -s, pl. 66/6o. wane, adj. deficient, 8/61; vb. 116/ 278; -n, 86/44. wanhope, sb. despondency, 5/131, 30/99, 43/91. wante, vb. want, fail, 93/129; -s, sg. 67/112.wanton, adj. 54/113. war, adj. wary, 1/1, 15/29, 22/1, 37/79, 86/33; vb. beware, 3/71, 82/103.warde, sb. ward, cell, 80/41. ware, adj. wary, 109/70. ware, vb. use, 107/5. ware, vb. pt. wast, 107/5. warke, sb. werk, 120/407. warne, vb. warn, 76/101; -d, pp. 43/89.warnestor, sb. store, provisions, 27/13, 59/122. warnyng, sb. warning, 41/20. 105/52; -e, pp. 80/48; pt. 120/

warre, adj. wary, 60/xiv.

83/121; -e, adv. 63/76. wast, vb. waste, 20/166, 112/149;

was, vb. pt. 1/13, 3/81; wast, 101/

wasche, vb. wash, 19/135, 40/172,

wast, adj. waste, abundant, 37/100,

pp. 20/177; -e, 69/148, 90/56, 94/

wary, vb. curse, 93/133.

7, 109/68.

115/248.

wastyng, ppr. wasting, 44/137. water, sb. 40/174, 41/33, 64/3. wax, sb. 84/175. waxe, vb. grow, become, 57/58, 67/ 110; -n, 86/43, 110/104; pp. 93/ 135; -p, sg. 68/126. way, sb. 15/36, 94/170; -e, 120/ 398; -es, pl. 78/159. waye, vb. weigh, 36/51. wayle, vb. wail, 117/324. wayte, vb. wait, 23/30, 68/127: w. after, w. for, 39/151, 71/70, 118/ wayueb, vb. waives, 72/100. **web.** sb. 15/6. weddid, pp. wedded, 79/6. wede, sb. weed, garment, clothes, 8/54, 56/30, 72/120, 84/161. wede, vb. weed, 19/143. wede, vb. rage, 69/3. weder, sb. weather, 8/57 wedlok, sb. wedlock, 102/25. weel, adv. well, 35/34. weet, sb. wetness, 66/67. wel, adv. well, 9/80, 11/76, 12/98. welde, vb. hold, enjoy, 24/63, 40/4. wele, sb. weal, wealth, property, good, 16/66, 24/49, 33/68, 35/27, 40/4, 42/65; adv. well, 2/40, 38/ 135, 68/120. welfare, sb. success, 26/34. wel-faryng, adj. thriving, 8/51. welle, sb. wealth, 66/55, 71/58. wend, vb. turn, go, 12/107; -e, 16/37, 27/68, 53/85, 74/51; -es, 3. sg. 23/18; -ys, 2. sg. 110/97. wende, vb. pt. thought, 67/91. wene, vb. think, fancy, 5/132, 29/76, 52/61, 82/92. went, vb. goes, 55/5; pp. turned, returned, past, 2/36, 3/68, 92/92,

wepe, vb. weep, lament, 60/148,

were, vb. pt. were, 8/67, 9/77, 79,

21/217, 51/26, 101/10; -n, pl.

were, vb. wear, 53/104, 81/52. were, sb. war, 11/72; vb. defend,

117/324, 119/364; wepyng, pp.

398.

48/46.

67/93.

111/109.

werk, sb. work, 19/154, 33/76, 114/236; -es, pl. 74/34, 108/26; -is, 49/87, 61/18, 84/148; -ys, 3/79, 87, 80/33, 107/2.

werkman, sb. workman, 39/165. wern, sb. pt. were, 118/360.

werne, vb. refuse, deny, 77/146. werne, sb. war, quarrel, 8/67, 12/

104, 54/125, 59/127, 129, 68/142, 98/85; -b, vb. sg. makes war, 13/113.

werryours, sb. warriors, 39/138. werye, adj. weary, 80/30.

wes, vb. pt. was, 13/142.

west, adv. 114/208.

wet, vb. know, 12/101; -e, 12/97.

wete, vb. wet, 40/174.

wexe, vb. grow, 6/159; -n, pl. 15/

weye, vb. weigh, 1/14.

weye, sb. way, 9/14, 24/71; -s, pl. 103/8.

wey-laway, interj. wellaway, 33/

whales, sb. gen. whale's, 45/178. whan, conj. when, 7/29, 9/82, 100/ 131; whanne, 3/63, 30/89, 107/ 7; adv. 87/46.

what, int. adj. 4/98, 72/98; pron. 7/41; rel. adj. 2/50, 12/81; pron.

95/210. wheel, sb. wheel, 101/11.

when, conj. 8/51, 53, 15/31, 36/48; whenne pat, 34/98, 111/119.

wher, adv. where, 114/212; -e, 77/152; wherever, 49/93, 99 96. wher-euere, adv. wherever, 114/

wher-euere, adv. wherever, 114/ 217. where-of, adv. whereof, 64/1.

whereon, adv. whereon, 41/25. wherto, adv. whereto, why, 111/

whet, vb. sharpen, make sarcastic,

91/67. whete, sb. wheat, 10/47, 40/182. whether, conj. 5/139. 180/40;

whether, conj. 5/139, 180/40; wheper, 102/45; pron. which, 77 144

whiche, rel. pron. which, 7/18. whidre, adv. whither, 22/7.

while, sb. 18/101, 22/231; conj. 35/25, 61/26, 68/114, 105/65; the w., 22/235.

whirlewynd, sb. whirlwind, 44/

144.

who, inter. pron. 8/54, 114/219; rel. 75/81; -m, inter. 76/119; rel. 7/44; -s, inter. whose, 115/259; who so, rel. who, whoever, 3/79, 12/111, 17/95, 38/113, 72/107; who þat, rel. who, 5/145, 79/1.

whoche, inter. adj. which, 10/36. why, adv. 4/89, 98, 73/10; why—why, 5/127.

whyche, rel. pron. 104/19.

whyder, adv. whither, wherever, 15/5, 85/129, 110/96, 98. whyle, sb. while, 13/125; conj. 68/

113.

widre, vb. wither, 22/5. wikked, adj. wicked, 8/65, 11/77,

15/15, 29/49; sb. pl. 103/63; wikkid, adj. 22 1, 96/15.

wikkidnes, sb. wickedness, 78, 180. wil, sb. will, 41/79, 101/16; vb. 8/ 47, 14/155, 13/117, 63/95; wilt, 76/106.

wilderness, sb. wilderness, 42 48.

wile, adv. well, 30/104.

wilfully, adv. willingly, on purpose, 20/166, 45/170, 69/20.

wille, sb. will, wilfulness, 10/38, 12/95, 22/8, 23/16, 24; willis, pl. 18/105.

willefully, adv. willingly, on purpose, 23/18.

wilne, sb. will, deign, 115/242.

wiltow, vb. wilt thou, 76/119. wisdom, sb. 100/146.

wise, sb. pl. wise people, 6/167, 103/72.

wisely, adv. 27/16, 68/142.

wist, rb. pt. knew, 23/9, 88/81; -e, 28/41.

wit, sb. 8,61, 12/85, 22/8, 23/10, 32, 40.

with, prep. 3/84; wib, 14/152, 66/58, 98/88; adv. 5/145.

wibal, prep. withal, 61 28; adv. 64 12.

wipdrawe, vb. withdraw, 57'53.
wipout, prep. without, 66.80:
withoute, 4'113; wipoute, 20'
178, 180; abroad, outside, 13'
115, 51'19; -n, 79'200, 104 20.
witherand who withstead 10'9 to the state of t

withstande, vb. withstand. 109 44; withstonde, 83 125, 126, 108/ 32, 115 261.

withyn, adv. within, 110/91; wib-

yn, prep. 47/36 wib-ynne, 13/ 113, 83/140, 101/6; adv. 58/105, 67/81. witles, adj. witless, foolish, 10/38.

witnes, sb. witness, 58/94; -se, 31/13, 58/88, 77/148, 118/343.

witteles, adj. witles, 12/90. wittes, sb. pl. wits, 11/71, 35/39,

107/4. wit-word, sb. word of wisdom, 43/

wo, sb. woe, 5/146, 16/66, 26/47, 61/8, 16, 24, 32; interj. 119/366; adj. woeful, wretched, 61/32, 70/

wod, adj. mad, furious, 69/3, 90/

wode, sb. wood, 51/14.

wol, vb. will, 12/82, 16/38, 22/232; -e, 1/23, 15/27, 28/33, 27/72, 93/ 144, 120/416; -en, pl. 5/152; woln, 118/351; wolt, 2. sq. 112/ 149, 115/259; wolle, wish, 69/ 20; wold, pt. 91/61; -e, 9/77, 16/54, 21/200, 25/25, 35/18; est, 8/67, 77/115, 95/192.

wolward, adj. dressed in wool, 89/

23.

woman, sb. 82/86, 87, 113/169. wombe, sb. womb, belly, 26/51, 45/178, 67/81, 117/315.

won, sb. abode, 49/94, 66/55; -es, pl. 103/8.

wonde, vb. beware, 21/199, 82/85. wonderly, adv. wonderfully, 119/

wonder-syst, sb. wonderful sight, 47/21.

wondryng, sb. wondering, 72/109. wone, vb. dwell, live, 83/140, 93/ 144; -s, sg. 75/71; -b, 79/200, 117/329; -st, 43/8o.

wonne, pp. won, 33/65; -n, 59/

woo, sb. woe, 4/108, 24/66, 42/65,

60/xiv, 64/112. wood, adj. furious, mad, 42/55, 77/

149, 86/39, 91/81. wopen, sb. pl. weapons, 111/110. worche, vb. work, 1/7, 32/27, 43/

84, 66/58; -b, sg. 23/9, 24, 32, 40, 72/100; worchip, 22/8. worchip, sb. honour, 11/57; -e,

15/32.

word, sb. 7/27, 11/54, 33/76; pl.

52/51, 59/127, 100/110; -es, 3/71. 12/90, 17/80, 116/294.

world, sb. 5/123, 12/107, 14/145, 21/225, 227; -es, gen. 2/26, 3/58, 4/119; -is, 28/19, 111/121; -ys. 14/4, 42/70, 74/51.

worldly, adj. 2/45, 33/77, 73/23, 92/101.

wormes, sb. pl. worms, 112/160, 116/269; gen. 27/5, 108/16, 117/

wors, adv. comp. worse, 36/51; -e, 8/66, 41/10, 62/51.

worschep, sb. honour, 32/26; worschip, 12/83, 86; vb. 58/80; worschiped, pp. 9/6.

worschipful, adv. worshipfully, 104/26.

worship, sb. honour, 4/99, 7/39, 19/ 163; -e, 7/21; vb. 4/93, 101. worst, adv. 21/226.

worth, adj. 73/27.

worthi, adj. worthy, 5/139, 40/ 170; worbi, 11/57, 15/11; worby, 32/29, 92/120; worthy, 11/57, 15/11; 5/146, 7/40, 70/21.

wost, vb. knowest, 26/36, 31/4, 34/97.

wot, vb. know, 15/5, 70/32, 41; 3. sg. 2/25, 4/97.

wobes, sb. pl. pains, 93/143. wounde, vb. wound, 82/90; sb. 72/

98; -es, pl. 87/75; -is, 44/116. wounden, pp. involved, 71/61. wowe, vb. woo, 92/120.

wrappid, pp. wrapt, 47/6, 71/58.

wrastle, vb. wrestle, 66/76. wrath, sb. anger, 3/68, 69; wratthe, 3/81, 6/165; wrappe, 43/110, 53/87, 86/29, 110/198.

wrappeful, adj. angry, 43/106, 91/

wrecched, adj. wretched, 67/88. wrecchednes, sb. wretchedness, 101/8.

wreche, sb. vengeance, 42/56, 44/ 126, 71/70.

wreche, sb. wretch, 112/163, 113/

wrechidnes, sb. wretchedness, 113/

172; -se, 118/340. wrechyd, adj. wretched, 112/164. wreke, vb. wreak, revenge, 83/134; -p, 3. sg. 98/68.

wreten, pp. written, 102/48.

wrethes, sb. pl. clouds of smoke, 117/327.

writ, sb. 43/89, 53/91, 89/1. writen, pp. written, 11/53, 74.

wro, sb. corner, 63/86.

wrojt, vb. pt. 2. sg. madest, 119/ 372; pp. 107/4, 108/19.

wroken, pp. wreaked, avenged,

18/116, 46/4, 52/55. wrong, adv. 107/3; -e, 120/398; sb. 2/36, 22/243, 25/5, 11, 54/127; -es, pl. 98/68; -is, 36/68.

wronge worke, adj. wrong, im-

proper, 120/413.

wrongly, adv. 69/3, 75/83, 99/124. wrong take, adj. taken with wrong, 97/58.

wrongwys, adj. wrong, 15/20, 98/

wrot, vb. pt. wrote, 22/245, 37/93, 78/181.

wrop, adj. angry, 47/9.

wrought, made. 19/156; rought, pp. made, 19/156; wrougt, 68/134, 75/62, 76/94; pt. 41/17, 74/42, 94/179, 181, 110/ 84.

wrye, vb. turn away, 26/54. wryte, vb. write, 3/87, 112/146;

-n, pl. 83/120; pp. 56/25, 116/

wyd, adv. wide, 67/84; -e, 92/118. wyf, sb. wife, 110/125; woman, 37/ 79, 105/73.

wyft, sb. weft, 98/64.

wyat, sb. weight, 62/68.

wyke, sb. wick, 84/175.

wykednesse, sb. wickedness, 108/ 28.

wyket, sb. wicket, 67,83, 101,4. wykked, adj. wicked; -nesse, sb. 109/57.

wyl, vb. deign, 108/37.

wylde, adj. wild, extravagant, wanton, stubborn, 2/53, 29/57, 90/37, 96/23; vb. rnn wild, 64/ 110.

wyldernes, sb. wilderness, 107/124.

wyle, sb. wile, trick, 17/95. wylle, sb. will, discretion, 40/4.

wylne, vb. desire, 75/75.

wylt, vb. 2. sg. wilt, 87/46, 60, 112/ 143, 144; wyltou, wilt thou, 111/127; wyltow, 77/152.

wyn, sb. wine, 66/72, 104/37, 44. wyn, vb. win, 116/288.

POEMS (OXF.)

wvn, sb, bliss, 110.93.

wynd, sb. wind, 8/58, 14/3, 28/27; idleness, vanity, 52/50, 59/127: -e, wind, 35/29, 64/3, 101/19; breath, words, 69/148, 90/56.

wvng, sb. wing, 62/47.

wynne, sb. gain, advantage, 117 328; vb. win, get, gain, 4/114, 27/4, 51/31, 60/155, 157, 83/138; -st, 2. sg. 5/130, 30/98.

wynning, sb. gain, profit, 66/52. 88/77, 99/93, 116/281.

wys, adj. wise, 2/45, 3/60, 5/141, 7/37, 80/22; -e, sb. 5/138, 9/12; -ely, adv. 28/24, 32, 34/7, 88/86, 95/209; -est, adj. sup. 52/54, 54 135.

wysdom, sb. wisdom, 12/86, 17/95,

38/111, 41/21.

wyse, sb. manner, purpose, 4/98. wyseman, sb. the Wise Man, 62 41.

wysse, vb. show, 103/7.

wyst, vb. pt. knew, 28/35; -e, 23

wyt, sb. wit, 2/25, 12/92, 16/65, 65/ 20; vb. know, 70/55; -e, 2/49, 87/59, 109/59, 116/293; -en, pl. 56/27, 106/97.

wyte, vb. blame, censure, 76/119. 110/84, 112/152.

y, pers. pron. I, 4'90. 119, 42'43, 48, 49, 56. ydel, adj. idle, 12/90, 31/12.

y-fere, adv. together, 79/192. yliche, adj. like, 105/74, 106/87;

adv. alike, 61/35. ylle, sb. ill, 23/22, 57,68, 72/106,

87/58; adj. 40/2.

y-lyk, adr. alike, 39/159. ymage, sb. image, 37/98, 73 11,

94/181, 101/18. ymagenyng, adj. contriving, 64/

ympnes, sb. pl. hymns, 103/11.

ymydde, prep. amidst, 48/66.

yn, sb. inn, lodging, 44/121; **ynne**, 97/47.

ynne, prep. 71/61, 112/164; adv. 45/173, 76/93.

ynnere, adj. inner, 47/36. y-now, adv. enough, 5, 151; ynow,

41/29; -e, 92/114. yput, pp. put. 117/306. yren, adj. iron, 116/296. yrnes, sb. pl. urns, 105/65. ys, vb. is, 103/5, 105/58, 65. yse, sb. ice, 73/24. yshorted, pp. shortened, 115/252. ysse, vb. is, 55/1.

ywhether, adr. whether, (pleon.) 113/195. ywis, adv. certainly, 60/147; ywisse, 117/302, 119/384; y-wisse, 108/32; ywys, 2/29, 74/ 32.

NAMES.

Aaron, 42/45. Abraham, 107/121; -ys, gen. 119/ Adam, 47/10, 81/58. Antecrist, gen. Antichrist's, 40/ 175. Crist, Christ, 32/21; crist, 104/34, Ionas, 45/178. 105/59, 118/355; Crystys, gen. 105/68. Iudas, 32/37. Dauyd, David, 45/18o. Edward, 59/113. Egipt, Égypt, 93/147. Engeland, England, 56/27. Eue, Eve, 81/58. noe, 41/34. Flaundres, Flanders, 53/85, 69/1, 70/47, 71/57, 79. Ysaac, Isaac, 107/121.

Fraunce, France, 59/113. golyas, Goliath, 45/180. Herowdes, Herod, 93/148. iewes, Jews, 42/58, 47/14. Ihesu, Jesus, 89/11, 16;IhesuCrist, 89/8;Ihesus, 32/38, 35/ 15, 78/187; gen. 78/182, 79/197. Lazar, Lazarus, 117/311. Mary, 77/130. Moyses, Moses, 22/246; moyses, 42/45, 45/177, 56/23. Poule, Paul, 34/95.

GLOSSARY TO THE DOUCE POEMS.

a, interj. ah, 123/62, 131/327. a, indef. art, 125/125, 145/67, 68. abbey, sb. 147/140. able, adj. 140/611. aboute, prep. 136/474, 148/202; adv. 124/118, 143/4; abowte, 148/190. abrege, vb. grow short, 135/448. absolute, adj. 132/352. abydyng, sb. abode, 137/517. accuse, vb. 124/98. addyd, vb. pt. added, 132/356. affection, sb. affection, 133/374. affrayes, vb. frightens, 142/655. after than, adv. afterwards, 125/ 148. agaste, adj. aghast, 138/534. age, sb. 146/107; old age, 145/73, 146/117. ago, adj. gone, 138/535; agone, 149/226. alege, vb. allege, 126, 153. all, pron. 134/406; adj. 126/162; adv. 121/9; e, 129/272. allas, interj. alas, 131/329, 144/51. almes-dede, sb. alms-deed, 138/ 548. almyght, adj. almighty, 140,603; -y, 126/158. alone, adj. 135/439; aloon, 139/ alpha, sb. beginning, 138/525. also, conj. 123/63. although, conj. 126/179. alway, adv. always, 121/14, 142 668; alwey, 125/140. am, vb. 124/116, 146/115. amonge, prep. among, 137/512. amende, vb. heal, improve, 131/ 332, 145/87. amyable, adj. kind, 140,609. amys, adv. amiss, 146/129; -se, 123/68. an, indef. art. 128/218, 145/68.

an, prep. on, 145/68.

and, conj. 124/89. angor, sb. anger, 137/500. answere, sb. answer, 134/424. answered, vb. pt. 144/29. any, adj. 124/103, 133/374. apon, prep. upon, 143/5, 8, 149/233 aray, sb. array, attire, 140/596, 147/ 141. are, vb. 132/341. arowes, sb. pl. arrows, 140/598. art, vb. 2. sg. 121/27, 130/286. aryse, vb. arise, 137/502; -th, sq. 146,98. as, adv. 126/169, 145/82; conj. 143/ aske, vb. ask, 145/91; -d, pt. 144/ askyng, sb. asking, 144/36. asunder, adv. 130 280. at, prep. 144/44. ataketh, vb. pl. take, 128/224. atteynt, pp. conquered, 135 449. att ones, adv. at once, 134/402. awake, rb. 144/32. away, adv. 123.6; awey, 149/206. ay, adv. always, 136, 487; -e, 140 ayene, adv. again, 133 398; prep. against, 126/163; ayenst, 133 370. bade, vb. pt. badest, 127, 185. bale, sb. misery, 134/419. bale, sb. bail, security, 149 236. bande, sb. band, 147/136. bare, adj. 121/9. bare, vb. pt. carried, 144/43, 50; gave birth, 145/63. be, vb. 131/313, 334, 139/577, 149/ 228; pp. 141,632. beawte, sb. beauty, 144/45. becammest, vb. pt. becamest, 122, because, conj. 139/572. bed, sh. 137/498 499.

been, vb. pl. are, 144/47. before, adv. forward, 129/248. begyled, pp. deceived, 145/89. begynne, vb. 125/136; -th, sg. 131/304. behynde, adv. behind, 133/388: backward, 129/248. beholde, vb. look at, 140/608, 145/ beholdyng, sb. sight, 124/112.ben, vb. be, 139/568; pp. 122/42; pl. 132/337, 137/519; -e, 137/509, 143/17. bende, vb. bend, 142/657. bene, sb. bean; anything worthless; nat worthe a b., not worth a rush, 131/333. bent, adj. 145/85. benygne, adj. benign, 131/317. benygnyte, sb. benignity, 123/70. bere, vb. bear, 144/26. bere, sb. bier, 125/128, 134/215. beres, sb. pl. bears, 129/244. best, adv. 138/549; sb. 146/127; -e, 132/366. bestadde, pp. bestead, beset, 141/ 639. besyed, pp. troubled, 131/319. beth, vb. are, 132/340, 145/66. bethought, vb. pt. 149/235. bette, adj. comp. better, 129/271; -r, adv. 146/116. beware, $vb.\ 132/337$. bewte, sb. beauty, 145/77. beyonde, prep. beyond, 147/133. black, sb. 142/668; blak, adj. 139/ 579. blame, vb. 149/211.ble, sb. complexion, 121/4. blessed, adj. 149/240. blode, sb. blood, 123/83. bloo, adj. blue, 138/533. blood, sb. 126/155, 170, 148/187; -e, 126/173. blowe, vb. blow, 129/241. blyn, vb. stop, 127/208. blynde, adj. blind, 130/298, 148/ 169. blynne, vb. leave off, 146/95. blys, sb. bliss, 146/131; -se, 127/ 187. body, sb. 130/280, 149/218. bokes, sb. pl. books, 147/138. bolde, adj. bold, 145/86. bonde, sb. bonds, 147/160.

bones, sb. pl. 134/400. boode, vb. pt. suffered, 148/182. booke, sb. book, 139/579. boone, sb. favour, 139/565. bore, pp. born, 130/289. borne, pp. carried, 125/128. bote, sb. relief, 147/159 bothe, pron. both, 137/520; b.and, conj. 121/19, 149/231. bought, pp. 121/26; -est, pt. 136/ 466. bounde, pp. bound, 133/391. bowe, vb. bow, 142/657. bowes, sb. pl. boughs, 143/3. bowres, sb. pl. chambers, 148/195. brayn pan, sb. skull, 126/152. brede, sb. breadth, 129/256. breketh, vb. breaks, 123/66. breme, adv. fiercely, boldly, 144/43. brent, vb. pt. burnt, 147/148; -e, pp. 147/140.brere, sb. briar, 143/9. breste, sb. breast, 147/168. brotyll, adj. brittle, 123/67. brotylnes, sb. brittleness, 128/239; -se, 123/66. brought, vb. pt. 147/154; pp. 122/ browes, sb. pl. brows, 145/85. browke, vb. enjoy, 149/208. bryght, adj. bright, 140/607; adv. 140/610. brynge, vb. bring, 126/160. brytylnesse, sb. brittleness, 125/ but, conj. 122/33, 35, 36. byde, vb. abide, 134/411. bylde, vb. build, 148/193. bynde, vb. bind, 129/244. byrde, sb. bird, 143/9, 14, 22; byrdys, $pl.\ 143/7$. bytter, adj. bitter, 148/182; comp. 135/441. bytternesse, sb. bitterness, 124/89. cage, sb. 135/455. call, vb. 134/421: -e, 130/273. cam, vb. pt. came, 137/506; -e, 149/206. can, vb. 126/179, 145/69; cannat, cannot, 149/211. cappe, sb. cap, 145/80.care, sb. 132/343, 139/568.

careyn, sb. dead body, 133/368.

carpe, rb. speak, 133/370.

caste, vb. pt. 143/6. castell, sb. castle, 148/196; -es, pl. 148/193. catell, sb. cattle, 148/203, 149/205. caught, vb. pt. 147 155. cause, sb. 126/153. certes, adv. certainly, 122/35. chace, rb. chase, 128/233. change, vb. 134/413. charyte, sb. charity, 140 609. chaunge, rb. change, 134/412. chere, sb. countenance, 130/299. 144/24. cheryte, sb. charity, 124 101. chese, sb. cheese, 126/172. chese, vb. choose, 137/495; pt. 139/ 557. cheste, sb. coffin, 132 364. cheyne, sb. chain, 133/391. churche, sb. church, 147/137. chylde, sb. child, 148/202. clad, pp. 140/594; -de, 127/181. clay, sb. 126/159, 140/594. clene, adj. clean, 131/325, 328; adv. entirely, 138/535, 146/130. clepe, vb. call, 129/261; -d, pp. 143 681. clere, adj. bright, beautiful, 136/ 486, 145/78, 81, 86. clerke, sb, clerk, 121/v. cleued, pp. stuck, 138/530. close, sb. enclosure, 124/101. clot, sb. clod, 121/16. cloth, sb. 130/278; -e, 149/217; -es, pl. 147/142. clyngyng, adj. clinging, 121/16. clyppyng, ppr. embracing, 146/95. colde, sb. cold, 130/293. colour, sb. 145/81; -e, 140/593. comen, pp. come, 132/357. comly, adj. comely, 145/84. commendyd, pp. commended, 131 334. commeth, rb. comes, 125/135; commyn, pl. 134/417. compunction, sb. compunction, 121/vi. conceyued, pp. conceived, 131/326. concurraunte, competitor, sb.133/377. considerest, vb. 129/272. consume, vb. 130/277: -d, pp. 141 contrarious, adj. contrary, 122/52.

contre, sh. country, 145/83.

197 corage, sb. courage, 135/450. correction, sb. correction, 133/ 380. Couetyse, sb. covetousness, 148/ counseyle, vb. counsel, 146/100. cowde, vb. pt. could, 146/95. crafte, sb. craft, 146/96. craue, rb. crave, 127/194. creature, sb. 136/465. creaunte, sb. one vanquished, 136/ 479. crepe, rb. creep, 123/75. croked, adj. crooked, 148/170. crostys, sb. pl. crusts, 149/219. crouned, adj. crowned, 146/131. crowde, rb. crowd, 128/225. crye, vb. cry, 148/199; -d, pt. 146/ cure, rb. 136/467. curtesy, rb. courtesy, 146/96. curteys, adj. kind, 142/659. cusse, sb. kiss, 146,97, 99. dale, sb. 148 181. dampne, vb. damn, 142 674; -d. pp. 134/406. dar, vb. dare, 126/166; -e, 126/163. dare, rb. tremble, 136/475. day, sb. 127/197; -es, pl. 125/121. 122 debate, sb. quarrel, 144/57. deceyued, pp. deceived, 126/150. declared, pp. explained, 120/iii. ded, sb. deed, 142/664: -e, 145/60. dede, adj. dead, 139/577. dede, vb. pt. did, 147/159. dedly, adj. deadly, 133/392. dedys, sb. pl. deeds, 126/175. degrade, vb. 131/311. degre, sb. degree, condition, manner, 121/22, 131/310, 145 62. delay, sb. 134/423, 140/597; rb. 133, 367. deme, vb. judge, 140 596; -st, 124/94: demyng, ppr. 128 234. denyed, vb. pt. refused, 127/199. departeth, vb. departs, 130/279. depe, adj. deep, 128/222; adv. 126/

depryued, pp. deprived, 126-154.

sb. 136/485; derknes, 142 673.

dere, adv. dear, 121/26. derke, adv. dark, 142/667; -nesse,

desyre, rb. desire, 132/363.

177.

deth, sb. death, 132/355; -e, 142/ | dye, vb. die, 149/232; -d, pt. 135/ dethe day, sb. day of death, 132/ deuvll, sb. devil, 146/99; -es, gen. 146/97. deuyse, vb. devise, pronounce, 134/ deynte, sb. taste, 147/135. dignite, sb. dignity, 126/151. Dirige, 138/550, beginning of a mournful song. disceued, vb. pt. deceived, 145/90. discrete, adj. wise, 121/iv. disease, sb. 133/367; -s, pl. 141/ 618; disese, 137/493. disparitable, adj. peerless, 140/ displese, vb. displease, 128/214. disporte, sb. disport, 143/2. distroy, vb. destroy, 129/260. diuerse, adj. diverse, 131/310. do, vb. 122/49; pp. 147/163. doloures, sb. pl. pains, 139/556. doluen, pp. dug, 123/79. dome, sb, doom, 137/501. domesday, sb. doomsday, 129/255; domysdaye, 140/592. don, pp. done, 144/23. Donghyll, sb. dunghill, 120/iii. dost, vb. doest, 123/64; doth, 3. sg. 135/451; pl. 128/225. doune, sb. hill, 148/181; adv. down, 124/98. drawe, vb. draw, 134/418. drede, sb. dread, 144/58; vb. 138/ drervnesse, sb. dreariness, 142/679. drewe, vb. pt. drew, 143/22. drofe, vb. pt. drove, 147/156. drope, vb. droop, 129/263. droune, vb. drown, 126/178. drowe, vb. pt. drew, misled, 146/ drowpe, vb. droop, 136/475; ppr. -yng, 144/24. dryue, vb. drive, 122/44. durable, adj. eternal, 140/606. duraunte, adj. lasting, 133/375. duresse, sb. hardship, 142/677. dwell, vb. 142/674; -e, 134/407; -en, pl. 125/122; -yng, ppr. 134/414. dyches, sb. pl. ditches, 148/194. dyd, vb. pt. did, 127/202.

dygne, adj. worth, 131/313. dymme, adj. dim, 138/536. dyshoneste, sb. shame, 124/106. dysplay, vb. display, 123/88. dysseuere, vb. separate, 140/614. dyue, vb. dive, 122/38. echone, pron. each, 131/321. egle, sb. eagle, 145/68. ende, sb. end, 142/650; -th, vb. pl. 143/685. endeles, adj. endless, 128/224. endure, vb. 135/460. enemy, sb. 128/233; -es, pl. 131/ 321. ensample, sb. example, 139/567, entent, sb. intent, attention, 134/ 426; -e, 132/328. equipolent, adj. equipollent, 132/ erth, vb. earth, 138/546; -e, 135/ ese, vb. ease, 137/497. ete, vb. eat, 149/220. euer, adj. ever, 125/144; euermore, adv. 146/127; euermare, 132/339.euery, adj. every, 144/421. euerychon, pron. every one, 139/ 567; -e, 135/433. euerydele, adv. entirely, 144/55. euyll, adj. evil, 136/490. excuse, vb. 124/104, 107. executoures, sb. pl. executors, 139/ 558. eye, sb. 141/629; -n, pl. 138/536. eyre, sb. heir, 149/208. eysell, sb. vinegar, 135/441. 570. face, sb. 128/229, 149/240. fade, vb. 126/174. fader, sb. father, 122/53, 57.

eyther-or, conj. either-or, 139/ fall, vb. 128/239; -e, sb. 130/275; -en, vb. pl. 124/106; pp. 135/ 446. false, adj. 139/560. fare, sb. noise, bustle, 139/57; 3. vb. 130/278. fast, adv. 138/530; -e, 148/190. fastyng, sb. fasting, 138/548.

faunt, sb. vain lad, 136/470. fayne, adj. fain, 121/27. fayre, adj. fair, 145/82, 88; -st. sup. 121/5; fayrenesse, sb. 128/ faytours, sb. pl. scoundrels, 139/ 563. feble, adj. feeble, 135/445, 458. fede, vb. feed, 138/551. feder, sb. feather, 145/74; -e, 144/ 49: -es, pl. 143/10, 17: -s, 144/ 25, 37. fee, sb. property, 147/192. feet, sb. pl. 129/265. fele, adj. many, 144/53. felle, vb. pt. fell, 149/205, 215. felle, sb. skin, 134/400. fende, sb. fiend, 142/656. fere, adv. far, 133/388. ferly, adj. fearful, 139/573. ferre, adj. far, 145/83. ferse, adj. fierce, 147/145. fetewres, sb. pl. features, 145/84. fewnes, sb. fewness, 142/649. feynt, adj. faint, 135/445, 458. fle, vb. flee, 143/10, 16; flee, 124/ flesshe, sb. flesh, 131/320; flesshly, adj. 124/109. flood, sb. 149/216. floure, sb. flower, 130/301; -s, pl. 143/4; flowres, prime, 148/201. flynte, sb. flint, 139/582. flytte, vb. flit, 127/188. folowest, vb. followest, 129/250. folyes, sb. pl. follies, 144/53. fonde, vb. pt. found, 143/3, 7. fondyng, sb. temptation, 129/246. fone, sb. pl. enemies, 131/320. fonned, vb. pt. allured, enticed, 146/111.foon, sb. pl. enemies, 139/585. foot, sb. 147/158. for, conj. 121/4; prep. 127/190; -e, 140/605; for thy, conj. therefore, 137/511; for to, conj. in order to, 148/184. forest syde, sb. wood-side, 143/1. forhede, sb. forehead, 145/85. for-lore, pp. lost, 148/180. formed, $\hat{p}\hat{p}$. 125/146. forsake, vb. 146/100; forsoke, pt. 146/112. forsooth, adv. 124/111; forsoth,

137/510; -e, 135/433, 137/520.

forsuche, vb. search, 125/134. forth, adv. 125/126, 137; -e, 129/ 247. forthynketh, vb. repents, 123/85. fortune, sb. 149/210. foryetyn, vb. pl. forget, 121/20. foule, adj. wicked, 126/150. founde, vb. pt. found, 147/149. fourth, adj. 148/177. fre, adj. noble, liberal, innocent, 122/53, 130/286, 123/82. frealte, sb. frailty, 134/430. freel, adj. frail, 129/242; -te, sb. 126/178. frendes, sb. pl. friends, 138/542, 545; frendys, 139/585. frenshyp, sb. friendship, 122/57. fresshe, adj. fresh, 125/125. fro, prep. from, 143/17; from, 128/ fryke, adj. bold, 125/125. ful, adv. very, 135/449. fulfyll, vb. fulfil, 147/167. full, adj. 128/230; adv. 145/66. fume, sb. smoke, 130/279. furst, adv. first, 123/74; adj. 144/ fyght, sb. fight, 147/145. fynde, vb. find, 129/246. fyre, sb. fire, 130/279. fyue, num. five, 122/45. gall, sb. 135/441. gan, vb. pt. began, pleon. 148/190. gate, vb. pt. got, 147/141. gay, adj. 138/537. gete, vb. get, 136/478; -n, pp. 149/ 207; -th, sg. 149/238, 239. glad, adj. 127/196; -de, 127/187. glade, vb. gladden, 130/302. gladsom, adj. gladsome, 125/126. go, vb. 129/266; pp. 143/15; -ne, 131/316: -th, pl. 130/280. god, sb. 123 62; goddys, gen. 141 644. golde, sb. gold, 147/142, 149. good, adj. 128/224: sb. property, 148/185; pl. good people, 134/ 402. goodnes, sb. goodness, 125/137; -se, 123/62. goste, sb. ghost, 126/176.

gostly, adj. ghostly, 149/236.

gouerne, vb. govern, 127/184.

grace, sb. 127 208.

graue, sb. grave, 127/203. grauen, pp. graven, 139/582. graunt, vb. grant, 142/665; -e, 139/565. gray, adj. 138/536. grede, vb. cry, 129/261. grene, sb. green, 143/5. grete, adj. 128/234; sb. pl. 134/417. greued, pp. grieved, 135/459; greuyd, 122/41; greuyn, vb. pl. 136/473.greuously, adv. grievously, 135/ greved, vb. pt. grieved, 142/663. groche, vb. grudge, 139/570; -th, sq. 136/464. grones, sb. pl. groans, 134/404. grope, vb. 129/249. grounded, vb. pt. 148/186. groweth, vb. grows, 130/132. gryse, vb. feel horror, 134/403. gumme, sb. gum, 139/580. gylt, pp. offended, 122/41; pres. 124/103. gynne, sb. gin, snare, 146/97. had, vb. pt. 144/23; -de, 127/183. hale, vb. draw, 134/416. halles, sb. pl. halls, 148/195. han, vb. pl. have, 124/112. hande, sb. hand, 125/142; -s, pl. 125/145. handwerk, sb. handiwork, creature, 124/100; -e, 134/428. hap, vb. happen, 139/568; sb. 146/ 128; -ly, adv. 125/128. hard, adj. 136/464: -e, 139/582; -er, comp. 131/318. hardnes, sb. hardness, 125/135; -se, 128/234; curd, 126/172. hardshyp, sb. hardness, 125/138. harme, sb. harm, 131/332. has, vb. 2. sq. hast, 141/647; hast, 132/349. hastyly, adv. soon, 142/650. hath, vb. sg. 127/205; -e, 145/73. haue, vb. have, 127/196. haunte, vb. haunt, 133/379. he, pron. 121/28. held, vb. pt. 149/221; -e, 145/78. heldyng, ppr. descending, 126/152. hele, vb. cover, 149/218. hell, sb. 128/222; -e, 133/377. helpe, sb. help, 136/478; vb. 122/ 31; -th, pl. 138/542; sg. 122/35. I, pron. 124/115.

hem, pron. them, 144/38. hende, adj. gentle, kind, 122/54, 142/659. hepe, sb. heap, 128/218. her, adj. 144/27; -e, 149/234; pron. 144/24. herbe, sb. herb, 147/157. herde, vb. pt. heard, 143/21. here, vb. hear, 132/354. here, adv. 145/61 herewith, adv. 131/309. hert, sb. heart, 136/484; -e, 136/ 473; -ys, gen. 144/31. heryng, sb. hearing, 138/535, 145/ 70. hervtage, sb. heritage, 135/452. heste, sb. commandment, 147/167; -s, pl. 127/185. heuen, sb. heaven, 134/416. his, adj. 145/65. hit, pron. it, 144/49. holde, vb. hold, take, 132/366. holy, adj. 127/208. holy, adv. wholly, 148/198. home, adv. 147/150. honde, sb. hand, 147/158. honorable, adj. honourable, 140/ 608. hoo, interj. 138/527. hood, sb. 145/80. hope, vb. 141/620; -d, pt. 136/486. hore, adj. hoar, 146/111. horyble, adj. horrible, 138/538. hoste, sb. army, 147/155. hote, adj. hot, 135/450; sb. heat, 130/293. how, adv. 124/94; -e, 137/519; howgh, 148/191. hume, sb. clay, 130/281. hungor, sb. hunger, 130/293. hyde, vb. hide, 133/382; -st, 128/ 229. hydous, adj. hideous, 134/404. hye, adv. high, 134/416; hygh, adj. 149/222; sb. 145/68. hygh-herted, adj. high-hearted, 130/284. hyght, vb. pt. was called, 146/118. hym, pron. him, 133/367. hymself, pron. himself, 121/14. hys, adj. his, 127/201; their, 147/ 168. hyt, pron. it, 123/85.

I-bent, pp. bent, 143 3. in, prep. 122/29. into, prep. 123/75. inward, adj. 124/113. iolite, sb. jollity, 143/15. ioy, sb. joy, 149/226. iugement, sb. judgment. 132/344.

iugement, sb. judgment. 132 344. kepar, sb. keeper, 122/50. kepe, vb. 127/185, 146/126; sb. custody, 128 224; kepte, pp. 127/190, 205. keste, pp. cast, 133/368. keuered, pp. covered, 142/668. knaue, sb. page, 137/496; thrall, 127/201. kne, sb. knee, 149/233. knette, pp. knit, 140/615. knowe, vb. know, 129/270; pp. 146/122. knyfe, sb. knife, 147/168. knyght, sb. knight, 137/496. knyt, pp. knit, 127/182. kynde, sb. kind, nature, 123/76. 137/514; adj. 122/55. kyndly, adj. gracious, 132/357. kyng, sb. king, 146/105; -e, 126/ kyssyng, ppr. kissing, 146/95.

lace, sb. lease, respite, 128 232. lacked, rb. pt. 149/219. lad, pp. led, 123/86. lade, pp. laden, 131/309. lake, sb. puddle, 131/329. lambe, sb. lamb, 137/515. lame, adj. 148/169. lande, sb. land, 147/134. large, adj. 145/85; liberal, 130, 286. laste, sb. lasting, 148 192. lat, vb. let, 139/555; -e, 124/105. late, adv. 145/59. lay, sb. song, 144/27. lay, vb. pt. 136/485. layne, pp. lain, 122 29. lechery, sb. 145/94. leddest, vb. pt. ledst, 141,625. lede, sb. lead, 139/581. lefte, pp. left, 149/217.

lere, vb. teach, 122 43; learn, 130

length, sb. 129/256.

leof, adj. dear, 134/431. lepte, pp. run, 127/207.

lese, rh. lose, 124 119.

lessons, sb. pl. 143/685; lessoun, sq. 133/383. lete, vb. let, 148/193. lette, vb. hinder, 129/269. lettest, vb. thinkest, 131/313. lettyng, sb. hindrance, 144/34. leue, vb. believe, 130/287. leuere, adj. more agreeable, 140 lewde, adj. unlearned, 120/iii. leyde, pp. laid, 127/203, 143/5. leyne, vb. hide, 133/389. lo, interj. 141/645. lofe, sb. loaf, 149/219. loke, vb. look, 139/584. londe, sb. land, 142/671, 673. longe, adv. long, 132/350. loo, interj. lo, 123/73. lord, sb, 121/1; -e, 143/13. lore, sb. 130/295. lost, vb. pt. 148/203; -e, 146 101; pp. 135 450. loth, adj. loath, 130/282; -ly, 130/ 281. loue, sb. love, 128/235: -ly, adj. 130/299. lowe, sb. deep, 145 68: -st, adj. sup. 137/513. lust, vb. please, 132/365: pt. 144 44; sb. lust, 142/655; -e, 146 110; pleasure, 145 6o. lyche, adj. like, 148 196. lyef, adj. dear, 121, 1. lyfe, sb. life, 127, 183, 193. lyght, adj. light, 133/395; -ly, adv. 130 284. lying, ppr. 120/ii. lyke, adj. like, 136 476. lykened, pp. likened, 137/515. lykyng, sb. liking, 144/44. lymes, sb. pl. limbs, 148/170. lynde, sb. linden-wood, 133 395. lyppes, sb. pl. lips, 138/532. lyste, vb. lust, 131/328; pt. 149 lytell, adj. little, 137/498: adv. 147/143; sb. 132/361. lyue, sb. life, 122/47; vb. 140 590; -n, pl. 149/231: -th, sg. 140/ 590; lyuyd, pt. 147/157.

madde, adj. mad, 141/643. made, pp. 130/281; pt. 127 208; -n, pl. 136/482; -st, 141/634. mageste, sb. majesty, 149/222.

21.

magnifyeth, vb. extols, 121/14. most, adv. sup. 30/282; -e, adi. make, vb. 131/325; -th, sq. 142/ 147/153. mouth, sb. 138/529. maligne, adj. malicious, 131/319. mowen, vb. pl. may, 138/549. malyce, sb. malice, 134/430. mowthe-eten, adj. moth-eaten, man, sb. 125/125. 130/278. multiply, vb. 148/184. muse, vb. 124/105. manere, sb. manner, 125/131. mankynde, sb. mankind, 122/50. mannes, sb. gen. man's, 125/124, must, vb. 123/75. my, adj. 121/I. many, pron. 146/99; m. oon. myght, vb. pt. might, 136/483; sb.many a one, 143/8. 129/243; -es, pl. 147/153. mylde, adj. soft, 148/204. marke, sb. mark, 121/15. maters, sb. pl. things, 124/105. mylke, sb. milk, 126/169. matiere, sb. stuff, 122/51. mylkedest, vb. pt. milkedst, 126/ may, sb. May, 149/230. 169. may, vb. 124/114; -e, 143/683; myn, adj. my, 143/6; -e, 135/452. -st, 144/47. mynde, sb. remembrance, 122/59. mayde, sb. maid, 123/82. mynne, adv. less, 141/630. mayne, sb. power, 147/147. myrrour, sb. mirror, 145/90. me, pron. 122/34, 46. myrthe, sb. mirth, 143/15. mechyll, adj. great, 144/58. mys, vb. miss, 123/71. mede, sb. meed, 138/549 mys, sb. wrong, 147/163. mekyl, adj. great, 136/489; myschyef, sb. mischief, 142/673. 149/217. mysdo, pp. done wrong, 146/119; mele, sb. meal, 149/220. mys-doth, vb. sg. 130/285. men, sb. pl. 134/412. myselfe, pron. myself, 145/78. myspent, pp. misspent, 132/345. mene, vb. think, 128/231. mene, vb. moan, complain, 131/322. mystan, adj. mistaken, 124/116. mennes, sb. gen. pl. men's, 132/ myswrest, adj. perverse, 133/369. 337; mennys, 125/122. mysylfe, pron. myself, 140/601. ment, vb. pt. 2. sg. meantst, 134/ naked, adj. 149/218. meny oon, pron. many a one, 146/ name, sb. 146/122. namly, adv. especially, 138/542. 124. mercy, sb. 127/183. nat, adv. not, 149/217; n. for than, adv. nevertheless, 127/191. mesure, sb. measure, 135/462. mette, pp. measured, 129/267. nat, vb. do not know, 121/11. nature, sb. 135/458. mo, sb. more people, 137/502; adj. nay, sb. denial, 123/67; adv. no, 146/113. moche, adj. much, 122/32; adv. 126/163. ne, conj. nor, 124/114. 147/139. nede, sb. need, 126/167. mochell, adj. great, 146/123. nere, vb. were not, 141/644. moder, sb. mother, 137/508; -s, nere, adv. near, 132/357; comp. gen. 141/628. 143/22; nerre, adj. 145/83. molde, sb. earth, 121/15. nesshe, adj. soft, 126/170; -r, mone, sb. moan, lamentation, 135/ comp. 126/173. 435; -s, pl. 134/405. neuer, adv. never, 128/213, 135/447. monthes, sb. pl. months, 132/341. neyther, pron. neither, 147/136; moone, sb. lamentation, 139/569. more, adj. comp. 127/210; adv. n.—ne, conj. n.—nor, 144/56. 125/143. no, adj. 122/31. nobley, sb. nobility, 125/148. mornyng, sb. morning, 143/2. nombre, sb. number, 132/341. mornyng, ppr. mourning, 143/11,

nombred, pp. counted, 135/434.

non, adj. no, 137/510; noon, 126/ oure, adj. our, 132/343. oureself, pron. ourselves, 122/31. not, adv. 134/419. oute, adv. out, 130/301; out of, not, vb. know not, 135/461. prep. 137/497. nothyng, pron. nothing, 129/269. outeward, adi. outward, 124/112. nought, pron. nothing, 121/3; adr. owte, adv. out, 129/258; o. of, not, 122/35; n. for than, adv. prep. 123 74. nevertheless, 135/443. now, adv. 144/51: -e, 123/79. pacience, sb. patience, 137/518. nygh, adj. near, 146/110; adv. 148/ parce, vb., lat. spare, 149/235. party, sb. part, 148/204. nyght, sb. night, 127/197. passe, vb. pass, 132/351; -d, pp. nyll, vb. will not, 144/35. 136/469. passing, prep. beyond, 135/462. nyne, num. nine, 120/i. pathes, sb. pl. paths, 129/267. nysete, sb. folly, 144 50. payes, rb. pl. satisfy, 142/653. o, interj. 0, 122/53. penaunte, sb. penitent, 136, 476. o, indef. art. a, 143 2. peny, sb. penny, 139/562. of, prep. 121/16. peple, sb. people, 145/79. offende, vb. offend, 125/143. perylous, adj. perilous, 148/179. perysshe, vb. spoil, 124/118. ofte, adv. often, 126/176. ofte tyme, adv. oftentimes, 127 pese, sb. peace, 144/30. pety, adj. little, 120/xxv. olde, adj. old, 126/165; sb. pl. 121/ pewe, sb. seclusion, 139/555. peyne, rb. suffer, 139/555: -d, pp. on, prep. 125/128. tortured, 132/355. ones, adr. once, 127, 195. peynes, sb. pl. pains, 128,226. only, adv. 137/523. peynfull, adj. painful, 139/555. onys, adv. once, 133/398. place, sb. 139/556. oo, sb. omega, end, 138/528. Placebo, beginning of a hymn for the dead, 138 550. oo, num. one, 125/130; oon, 139/ 578; oone, 139/578. plate, sb. 139/581. oonly, adv. only, 124 111. opene, vb. open, 131/314.

opon, prep. upon, 125:139; adv.

opynly, adv. openly, plainly, 129

or, conj. 125/123; or ellys, or

ordeyne, vb. fix. 133/385; -d, pp.

other, adj. 126 153; pron. pl. 143/

otherwhyle, adv. at another time.

ouerthrowe, vb. overthrow, 129/

ought, pron. anything, 121/28;

oughware, adv. anywhere, 121 5. oune, adj. own, 124 90, 100.

adv. anyhow, 125/123.

oure, sh. hour, 140/591.

138/538.

132/349.

139/584.

245.

else, 139/581.

order, sb. 142/678.

or, conj. before, 128 219.

258.

plente, sb. plenty, 141 647. plyght, pp. entangled, 136/484. pore, adj. poor, 136/476; sb. pl. 149/231. pouder, sb. powder, 123,73, 77; -e, 123/74, 75. pouste, sb. power, 147 162. power, sb. 132/352. poyse, sb. poem, 145 65. praunce, vb. prance, 146/65. pray, vb. 124/93, 115. prayer, sb. 138/548. precious, adj. 147/142. prest, adj. ready, 146 125. presume, vb. 130/283. preue, rb. prove. 121 28. principall, adj. principal. profitable, adj. 121 vi. protection, sb. protection, 133'

pryde, sb. pride, 147/152.

pryke, vb. gallop, 146/125.

pryncipall, adj. 145/74; -y, adv. 145/94. pryson, sb. prison, 147/160. pryuyte, sb. privacy, 129/257. pulled, pp. 143/10, 17. punysshest, vb. punishest, 135/ 461. purchase, vb. 128/235; -d, pt. 148/191. pure, adj. 141/643. pursewe, vb. pursue, 138/553. put, vb. 136/490; puttedyst, pt. 2. sg. 126/151; puttist, pres. 2. sq. 121/25. pynne up, vb. check, 125/138. pyt, sb. pit, grave, 122/33, 128/222. pyte, sb. pity, 149/239. pytte, sb. grave, 123/79. queme, vb. please, 147/139. queynt, adj. pretty, 135/447. ranne, vb. pt. ran, 126/155. raue, vb. rage, 127/200. recluse, vb. shut up, 124/102. recouere, vb. release, 136/467. recuse, vb. refuse, 124/107. reddure, sb. rigour, 136/464. rede, vb. read, 129/254. rede, adj. red, 145/81. redemptour, sb. redeemer, 140/589. redy, adj. ready, 127/197. refreyned, pp. refrained, 132/351. refuse, vb. 124/100. rekeuere, sb. recovery, 141/618. renne, vb. run, 129/247.

respecioun, sb. sight, 133/381. respyte, sb. respect, 132/339. rest, vb. 132/362. rewe, vb. repent, 139/559; have pity, 138/541. rewle, vb. rule, 132/346. reyny, adj. rainy, 126/174. robbe, vb. rob, 147/135, 140. roote, vb. rot, 137/512. rote, sb. rot, 147/157. roten, adj. rotten, 137/505. rotyng, sb. rot, 130/277. rowe, sb. row, hedge, 129/247. rowte, sb. crowd, 143/8.

repent, vb. 132/347; -e, 134/431.

130/292.

rescue, vb. 143/682.

resoun, sb. reason, 135/462.

replenysshed, pp. replenished.

rudde, sb. blush, 145/81. ryall, adj. noble, 147/155. ryche, sb. pl. rich people, 149/231. rycher, adj. comp. richer, 149/213. ryches, sb. riches, 144/46: -se. 135/454. rvde, vb. ride, 148/100. ryght, adv. right, just, 126/172. ryse, vb. rise, 140/591. ryue, adj. rife, abounding, 122/42. sade, vb. be satiate, 126/179. sake, sb. for—sake, conj. 144/30. salt see, sb. salt-sea, 148/183. salyue, sb. spittle, 122/40. same. adj. 123/76. sande, sb. ordinance, trial, 149/223. sange, vb. pt. sang, 144/27. sare, adj. sore, 139/570; adv. 136/ sate, vb. pt. sat, 143/9, 11. saue, vb. save, 128/221. sauyour, sb. saviour, 140/595. say, vb. pt. saw, 138/534. say, vb. 124/90, 95; -de, pt. 147/ 161. sayled, vb. pt. sailed, 148/183; sayleb, 3. sq. pres. 145/67. se, vb. see, 135/454. secund, adj. second, 146/118. see, sb. sea, 145/67. see, vb. 140/601; -st, 124/110; -th, sq. 124/110; pl, 138/545. seede, sb. seed, 131/326. seke, vb. seek, 123/8o. seker, adj. sure, 148/189; sekurly, adv. 137/507. semeth, vb. seems, 124/97. sentence, sb. 132/353. sere, adj. divers, 130/292. seruyd, vb. pt. served, 127/201. set, vb. pt. 149/233; pp. 134/422; -te, 147/152; -test, pt. 2. sg. 125/147.sey, vb. say, 121/2; -e, 133/383; -en, pl. 149/207; -de, pt. 149/ 222; -dest, 127/186, 195. **seyn**, pp. seen, 141/630. seyng, vb. pt. sung, 143/14.seynt, sb. saint, 135/451. **seyth**, vb. says, 145/65. **shade**, sb. shadow, 131/308. shadyd, pp. shadowed, 143/3.

shalbe, vb. shall be, 121/7; shall

149/232; shalt, 134/421.

shap, sb. shape, 145/84; -e, 125/ 146; shappe, 145, 78, 87. sharpe, adj. sharp, 138/554. sharply, adv. quickly, 149/215. she, pron. 143/11. shene, adj. bright, beautiful, 143/ 7, 17. shewe, vb. show, 125/137; -st, 131. 315; -th, sq. 149/240. shopest, vb. pt. madest, 121/17. **shorte**, adj. short, 132/337. shoure, sb. shower, 148 182: -s, pl. 138/554. shoute, sb. cry, 134/404. showe, vb. show, 129/243. shuld, vb. pt. should, 147/151; -e, 121/17. shull, vb. shall, 142/650; -en, pl. 135/448. shut, pp. 132/364. shyne, vb. shine, 148/178; shynyng, ppr. 140/610. **shyp**, sb. ship, 145 67. sinfull, adj. sinful, 145/60. singyng, ppr. singing, 144/39. sinne, sb. sin, 126/177. sittyng, ppr. sitting, 143/8. skyn, sb. skin, 138/529; -ne, 141/ 628. slee, vb. slay, 147/135. slepe, vb. sleep, 123/73. sleyghtes, sb. pl. slyness, 148 185. slyde, vb. slide, 130/274. smale, sb. pl. the small, 134/417. smalle, adj. small, 129/270. smelle, vb. smell, 142/680; smellyng, ppr. 143/4. **smetyn**, *pp.* smitten, 148/173; smyten, 131/304. smytte, vb. pt. smote, 127 189. so, adv. 144/24. sodenly, adv. suddenly, 121 28; sodeynly, 149/205. solace, sb. 133/387; solas, 141/644. solempne, adj. venerable, 121/iv. som, adj. some, 133/387. somtyme, adv. sometimes, 128/215, somwhat, adv. somewhat, 135/ 448. son, sb. 123/83. sone, adv. soon, 131/304. song, sb. 143/21; -e, 143/19. swage, vb. decrease, 135/448. sore, adv. sorely, much, 127/209. swamme, rb. pt. swam, 123.83.

148/178: adi. sharp, 130/293; wicked, 146/109; sb. wound, 149/ 236. sorow, sb. 144/34. soth, adj. true, 130/287; -e, sb. 121/2; -ely, adv. 144/36; -ly, 123/88. sotylte, sb. subtletv, 126/149. soule, sb. soul, 121/1; -s, pl. 128 223, 226. spake, vb. pt. spoke, 146/124. spare, rb. 121/1; -d, pt. 144/56. speche, sb. speech, 123/87. spent, vb. pt. 139/561. spiryte, sb. spirit, 131/319. spred, pp. spread, 137/498; -e, inf. 129/258. spryngeth, vb. springs, 130 301. 149/230. spyryt, sb. spirit, 135/445; -e, 127/206. stable, adj. 140/602. stande, vb. stand, 128/238; stante, 3. sq. 135/439. stedfastnes, sb, steadfastness, 128/ 237. steppes, sb. pl. steps, 129/270: steppys, 135/433. stere, vb. stir, 121/vi. stode, vb. pt. stood, 144/58. stomble, vb. stumble, 129/250. ston, sb. stone, 131/318. stondeth, rb. stands, 125 130. story, sb. 132/354. stoute, adj. stout, 138/537. streynght, sb. strength, 146/121: streyngth, 146/101: -e, 146/ 126. stronge, adj. strong, 148 194. stryue, vb. strive, 126/166. **styf**, adj. stiff, 137/521. 135, 442: stynketh, vb. stinks, stynkyng, ppr. 142/68o. subjection, sb. subjection, 133/ 378. suche, adj. such, 146/128; s. a, 122/51; **s. on**, *pron*, such a one, 131/314. suffer, vb. 122/39; suffre, 137/493. supporte, vb. support, 130/274. susteyne, vb. sustain, 133/387; -d, pp. 132/354. sustres, sb. pl. sisters, 137/511.

swete, adi, sweet, 149/223; adv. 143/4. swolowe, vb. swallow, 122/40. swylke, adj. such, 126/175. syde, sb. side, 146/122. syght, sb. sight, 140/601, 611. **sygne**, sb. sign, 131/315. syke, adj. sick, 125/127. syke, adj. such, 125/121. sykerly, adv. certainly, 121/2. sylke, sb. silk, 126/173. syluer, sb. silver, 149/214. syn, sb. sin, 127/188, 200, 201. synew, sb. sinew, 129/265; -es, pl. 127/182. synful, adj. sinful, 128/223. synge, vb. sing, 121/11. synne, sb. sin, 144/55; -s, pl. 128/ 218. synned, pp. 135/457. synners, sb. pl. sinners, 121/vi. systren, sb. pl. sisters, 137/509. syt, vb. sit, 148/169. sythen, conj. since, 142/651; adv. 126/171. sytteth, vb. sits, 139/571. take, vb. 134/402; t. me to, take to heart, 143/10; -st, 123/61. tame, adj. 148/171. telle, vb. tell, 145/69. temples, sb. pl. 147/148. tempted, pp. 142/656. tene, vb. grieve, 131/330. termes, sb. pl. terms, 132/349. tethe, sb. pl. teeth, 138/533. than, adv. 126/173; then, 127/204. thanke, vb. thank, 137/522; -d. pt. 149/234. thare, adv. there, 121/11. that, rel. pron. 145/67; dem. adj. 126/151; pron. 146/109; conj. 124/117. the, def. art. 123/86. the, adv. 146/116. the, pron. thee, 122/34. then, adv. 131/320; than, 149/ther, adv. there, 140/605; -e, 145/ 61, 138/543. thereby, adv. 143/9. thereyn, adv. therein, 140/615. therfore, conj. therefore, 125/130. theropon, adv. upon them, 139/584. therto, adv. thereto, 132/338.

theryn, adv. therein, 147/148. these, pron. 146/113. they, pron. 121/3. theyre, adi, their, 145/72. tho, adv. then, 132/358. tho, pron. those, 146/115. thorough, prep. through, 123/66; thorow, 142/672. sought, thorow pp.sought through, 122/30. though, conj. 121/4; as if, 129/ 244. thought, vb. pt. 147/143, 146, 151; sb. 142/664; -es, pl. 136/471; -ys, 136/487. thow, pron. thou, 144/33. thre, num. three, 139/587. threpe, vb. assert, 123/77. thryd, num. third, 146/121. thryste, vb. cast, 124/98. thus, adv. 125/129, 134. thy, adj. 123/83; -n, 121/25; -ne, 144/36. thyng, sb. thing, 130/282; -e, pl. 126/162; -es, 124/112, 113. thynke, vb. think, 126/159; me -th, 125/135. thys, adj. this, 143/14; pron. 129/ to, prep. 144/26; adv. too, 122/29, 42. toe, sb. 146/106. togeder, adv. together, 127/182. toke, vb. pt. took, 147/150. tolde, pp. counted, 135/434. to-morow, adv. to-morrow, 125/ 127. tonge, sb. tongue, 142/676. toodes, sb. pl. toads, 128/225. top, $sb.\ 146/106$. torned, vb. pt. turned, 146/130. toure, sb. tower, 148/196; -s, pl. 148/193, 203. towe, adj. tough, 137/521. trauayled, vb. pt. travelled, 148/ 178. tre, sb. tree, 144/26. tresoure, sb. treasure, 148/184. trest, vb. trust, 133/371. tretyse, sb. treatise, 143/i. trewe, adj. true, 139/557. treytoures, sb. traitors, 139/560. tribulacion, sb. tribulation, 143/ 685. trinite, sb. trinity, 142/670.

trobled, vb. pt. troubled, 136/487. walke, vb. walk, 131/329; walktroone, sb. throne, 139/571. yng, ppr. 143/1. trowest, vb. believest, 133/397. walle, sb. wall, 129/268. wan, vb. pt. wonst, 124/119. truste, sb. trust, 140/615. tumble, vb. 128/223. wandre, vb. wander, 136/471; -th, turete, vb. turret, high throne, 141/ sg. 130/297. wanteth, vb. wants, 130/205, 137/ 610. turmented, pp. tormented, 130/294. 520. turned, vb. pt. 136/481. ward, rb. pt. was, 132/355. two, num. 144/42. ware, sb. food, 121/7... twyn, vb. part, 125/141; -ne, 141/ warne, vb. warn, 124/116. warysshed, pp. rescued, 125/142. 633. tyde, sb. while, 44/56. was, vb. pt. 123/78; pl. were, 146/ tyll, conj. 134/412; prep. to, 144/ HO. wasted, pp. 138/531. tyme, sb. time, 144/56; -s, pl. 125/ water. sb. 149/216. way, sb. 133/382; -es, pl. 142/651. 124. vale, sb. valley, 134/414. we, pron. 122/31. variaunte, adj. fickle, 136/472. weder, sb. weather, 126/174. verament, adv. truly, 132/342. wele, sb. weal, 137/522; adv. well, vermylone, sb. scarlet colour, 139 133/392; well, 146/115. welle, vb. flow, 135/438. 580. sb.virtue. 133/394;wemen, sb, pl. women, 146/110. vertew, vertues, pl. 135/437. wende, vb. pt. thought, 148 192. vestement, sb. vestment, 147/138. wende, vb. go, 142/652; went, pt. vnbynde, vb. unbind, open, 133/ 143/1; -e, 148/179. 393, 144/35. wepe, vb. weep, 142 666; wept, vnclene, adj. unclean, 131/326. pp. 127/209; -e, pt. 132/358. vncouth, adj. unknown, 147/134. wepyng, sb. weeping, 142/679. vnderstande, vb. understand, 131, wepyng dale, sb. valley of tears, 327; vnderstandyng, sb. 121/ 134 410. were, sb. uncertainty, doubt, 125/ IV. vnglade, adj. aggrieved, 126/176. 129, 130/297, 134/413. vnknowyng, adj. unknowing, 149/ were, vb. pt. 133/395, 139/560, 561, 144/37. vnkynde, adj. unkind, 129/251. werke, sb. work, 128 213. vnnethe, adv. scarcely, 127/190. wete, vb. know, 121/13. vnreste, sb. unrest, 147/166. wexed, rb. pt. grew, 141/643, 148/ 204; wexeth, sg. pres. 125/127. vnstable, adj. unstable, 145/62. vnsuffisaunte, adj. insufficient. wey, sb. way, 129/268; -es, pl. unable, 136/477. 145/66. vn-thende, adj. unsuccessful, 142/ whan, conj. when, 126/149, 170. 654. what, int. pron. 121/13; indef. a little wh., a l. while, 142/662; vnto, prep. to, 124/97, 106. vntrewly, adv. unlawfully, 149/ rel. wh.—that, 128/217. when, conj. 122/33. where, adv. 128/223, 137/517; wh.vp, adv. 125/138. vppon, prep. upon, 131/314. euer, wherever, 139/583. vs, pron. us, 149/240. wherefore, adv. 144/51; wherfore, vysitacion, sb. visitation, 127 205. 135/460. vysyteste, vb. visitest, 121 27. wherof, adv. whereof, 130, 283. wher-thorough, conj. wherefore,

wherto, adv. to what, 149/220.

whether, adv. pleon. 124/109.

wade, vb. 126/177. wage, sb. wages, 135/453. wake, vb. 136/482. who, int. pron. 126/163. whom, rel. pron. 137/506. whos, rel. pron. whose, 123/83. why, adv. 123/61, 63. whych, rel. pron. 120/ii; -e, 126/ 176; wh. that, 145/72; the wh. 130/277, 301; the wh. that, 129/266. whyl, conj. while, 142/662; -e, 147/165; sb. 130/290. whyte, adj. white, 138/533. wikked, sb. pl. wicked people, 140/ with, prep. 125/136. withdrawe, vb. withdraw, 132/362; -st, 128/232. withoute, adv. without, 148/194; -n, prep. 134/413. withstonde, rb. withstand, 147/ withyn, prep. 134/407; -ne, 125/ wo, sb. woe, 135/460. wodes-syde, sb. wood-side, 148/ wofull, adj. woeful, 134/405, 410. wold, vb. would, 128/235; -e, 127/ 207; -en, pl. 139/569; -est, 133/ 379. woll, vb. will, 144/32; wolt, 2. sg. 128/236. woman, sb. 130/289. wombe, sb. womb, 141/626. wonderful, adj. 133/399; -1, 145/69. wonder sare, adv. most violently, 136/473. wondre aray, sb. wonderful state, 140/596. wones, sb. pl. habitations, shelter, 134/407. woo, sb. woe, 146/98. woodly, adv. madly, 127/200. worcheth, vb. sg. works, 125/140.worde, sb. word, 144/33; -s, pl. 139/566; wordys, 147/161. world, sb. 133/369; -e, 140/596; -ly, adj. 142/651. worme, sb. worm, 145/68; -s, pl. 137/507; gen. pl. 121/7. worse, adj. comp. 129/271. worshyp, sb. honour, 145/80. worthy, adj. 146/105.

wote, vb. know, 121/23.

woundes, sb. pl. wounds, 122/45. wrake, sb. vengeance, 146/98.

wrathe, sb. anger, 133/375. wreche, sb. vengeance, 149/211. wrechednesse, sb. wretchedness, 142/675. wreten, pp. written, 139/566. wrought, pp. made, 122/32; pt. 144/53. wrong, sb. 144/23. wroth, adj. angry, 130/284. wryte, vb. write, 139/578; -st, 129/253. wycked, adj. wicked, 129/271. wyde, adv. wide, far, 146/124, 148/ wyde whare, adv. far away, 136/ 471. wyfe, sb. wife, 148/202. wyght, sb. creature, 136/488. wyked, adj. wicked, 129/260; -nes, sb. $128/217 \div$ -nesse, 123/64. wyl, sb. will, 142/665. wylde, adv. wild, 148/171. wyldernesse, sb. wilderness, 147/ wyles, sb. pl. wiles, 142/653. wylfully, adv. deliberately, 135/ 457. wyll, sb. will, 147/165. wylne, vb. wish, 132/364. wylt, vb. wilt, 129/259. wyn, vb. win, 127/210. wyndes, sb. pl. winds, 129/245. wynge, sb. wing, 144/42. wynne, vb. win, 141/635. wypt, pp. cleansed, 127/211. wyse, sb. manner, 128/214. wyste, pp. known, 141/632. wyt, sb. wit, 127/184. wyth, prep. with, 124/96. wythouten, prep. 134/423. wythyn, prep. within, 124/101. wytles, adj. witless, 141/646. wyttes, sb. pl. wits, 132/345. yaue, vb. pt. gave, 144/55; 2. sg. 132/346. y-bylde, pp. built, 148/195. ye, pron. you, 137/509, 510. yede, vb. pt. went, 129/268. yef, conj. if, 142/665, 144/31. yeme, sb. care, attention, 147/137. yere, sb. year, 134/411; pl. 132/ 356; -s, pl. 125/123. yes, adv. 133/399.

yet, adv. 149/221.
yeue, vb. give, 133/373; -st, 128/
232; yeuyn, pl. 139/562.
ylke, adj. same, 126/171.
ynke, sb. ink, 139/579.
y-nowgh, adv. enough, 148/189.
yong, adj. young, 146/107; sb. pl.
121/19; -e, adj. 145/71.
your, adj. 149/211; -es, pron. 139/
561.
youth, sb. 143/18; -e, 144/49, 53.

yow, pron. you, 138/551.
ys, vb. is, 144/51.
y-se, vb. see, 129/259.
y-set, pp. set, 143/4.
yshade, vb. pt. separatedst, 126/
172.
y-smete, pp. smitten, 145/73; ysmyte, 146/117.
y-warded, pp. warded, 148/194.
y-wys, adv. surely, 123/85; ywys,
146/114.

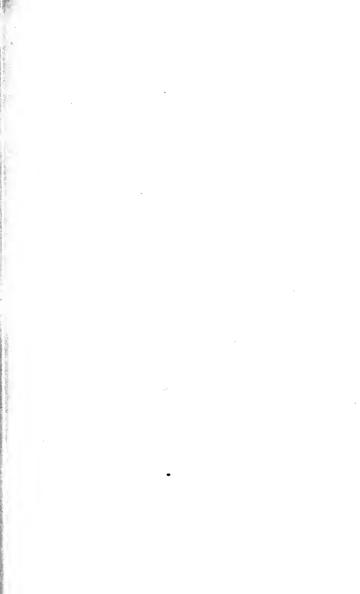
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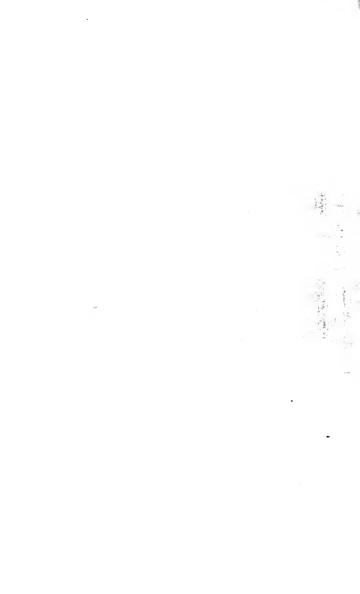
Iohn, 131/323.

Abraham, 123/81.
Adam, 123/78, 137/513.
bersabee, Bathsheba, 146/102.
cryste, Christ, 147/159; -s, gen.
144/30.
Dauid, David, 146/102.
Ezechye, Ezechias, 132/355.
Ierusalem, 147/146.
Ihesu, Jesus, 134/425, 148/187.
Iob, 149/213.

Mary, 131/323, 145/163; gen. 123/82; -es, 131/331.
Nabugodonozor, Nabuchodonosor, 147/145.
Rychard Hampole, 121/v.
Salamon, Solomon, 145/65, 146/105.
Sampson, Samson, 146/101.
sathan, Satan, 124/117, 126/150.







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